

## Jordan registers tremor of 4.08 on Richter

AMMAN (I.T.) — An earth tremor measuring 4.08 on the Richter scale was registered Monday by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA). NRA Acting Director Mohammad Abu Ajameh said the tremor was recorded at the Dead Sea area at 12:12 p.m. He said its epicentre was believed to be located at 26 kilometres below sea level. The tremor was also felt in the occupied West Bank and Israel, causing neither injury nor damage, seismologists said. Residents felt several ripples in occupied Jerusalem from the tremor. Israel registered the tremor at 4.2 on the Richter scale, AFP reported. The epicentre was in the Dead Sea, a continuation of the African rift valley, some 40 kilometres from Jerusalem, it said. A quake measuring four or more is capable of causing moderate damage.

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# Lebanese army to deploy in Hizbollah strongholds

## Gun licences and permissions to enter south cancelled

Combined agency dispatches

BEIRUT — President Elias Hrawi ordered the Lebanese army Monday to get ready to move south to confront villages from which guerrilla attacks were launched and which Israel cited as the reason for its massive bombardment of Lebanon last week.

Hizbollah, whose guerrillas have long used the area as a springboard for attacks on Israeli forces, reacted warily but sources in the group said it would avoid any showdown with the army.

Deployment of regular troops next to a 15-kilometre-deep buffer zone controlled by Israel could be a step towards disarming the guerrillas and cutting their supply lines, as demanded by Israel.

"The army's deployment in this region should be a step to consolidate internal security and the resistance. This step should be in harmony with the recent stands and assurances (of the Lebanese) government," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, secretary-general of Hizbollah, told reporters.

Hizbollah sources said a delegation left for Damascus to discuss the army's plans with Syria, the key foreign power in Lebanon.

The Higher Defence Council said it decided "to maintain the army's combat readiness to de-

ploy in (the United Nations force's) area of operations."

The short statement from the country's top military body did not disclose further details as to when the army would move into

the area of operations of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) or how it would work with the peacekeepers.

The decision to deploy the army came two days after a U.S.-

brokered ceasefire ended the Israeli bombardment that devastated 80 villages and displaced nearly a half million people.

The blitz also killed 147 people and wounded 496, according to

latest police figures. Seven bodies have been found under the rubble since the ceasefire went into effect Saturday.

Meanwhile, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri led a convoy of refugees in hundreds of buses and cars from Beirut to South Lebanon in what he described as "the return march."

Mr. Berri, addressing thousands of sympathisers at his hilltop mansion in the southern resort of Masyaleh, said the decision to deploy the army in UNIFIL's area of operations was "a decision taken by the Lebanese people."

State-run Beirut Radio said Prime Minister Rafik Hariri relayed the government's decision to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali by telephone late Sunday.

The report said Dr. Ghali later returned Mr. Hariri's call and informed him of the U.N. approval of the government's decision.

Lebanese military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an action plan for the deployment would have to be worked out with UNIFIL.

The government cancelled all

(Continued on page 5)

Army confronts guerrillas; residents return to ruins, page 2



Lebanese women pick their way through rubble as they return to inspect their homes in the South Lebanese village of Jibsheet (AFP photo)

# Christopher: Decision time near in Mideast

Combined agency dispatches

ALEXANDRIA — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday and declared that "decision time" on Middle East peace was rapidly approaching.

Mr. Christopher, starting a tour of Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan and maybe Lebanon to try to revive Arab-Israeli peace talks, saw Mr. Mubarak for two hours at a presidential palace overlooking Alexandria harbour.

Immediately afterwards, Mr. Mubarak met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chair-

man Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Arafat also met with Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Sunday and said he outlined Palestinian positions to be conveyed to Mr. Christopher.

Mr. Christopher told reporters that this month's massive Israeli bombardment of Lebanon and retaliatory rocket attacks by guerrillas should serve as a warning of what could happen if Arabs and Israelis did not make their peace talks succeed.

"We both agreed that recent events there can serve as a reminder to all parties that the Arab-Israeli negotiations can quickly deteriorate... if we do not take

this moment for peacemaking," he declared.

Discussing his informal deadline that the 21-month-old Middle East peace process must take progress by the end of this year, Mr. Christopher said: "Decision time is rapidly approaching."

But he promised: "As a full partner, the United States is prepared to stay the course."

Mr. Christopher told reporters he expected to make "steady progress" but no breakthroughs during his stops in Egypt, Israel, Syria and Jordan — a trip he delayed until after Saturday's

(Continued on page 5)

# PLO opposes 'early empowerment' plan

By Wafa Amr  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian official said on Monday that the U.S. was trying to exclude Jerusalem from Palestinian jurisdiction by pushing Palestinians to accept early empowerment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said that the U.S. presented Palestinians with a paper last week which included U.S. views on the transfer of some civil functions.

"We have rejected their renewed offer in writing before Christopher's visit," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

He said the U.S. ideas were not new and fell within the ideas that were mentioned in the June 30 U.S. draft document that was rejected by Palestinians.

The June document aimed at bridging Palestinian-Israeli differences over a five-year interim self-rule period in the occupied territories. Palestinians rejected the paper because it excluded Jerusalem from the interim arrangements and failed to define the scope of Palestinian jurisdiction in the occupied territories.

"What is new is the replacement of the word 'early empowerment' with the word 'early assumption of authority' despite an unchanged content," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

The PLO official said that new U.S. official paper on early empowerment was a clear U.S. bias towards Israel because it aims at bypassing Jerusalem and Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"Early assumption of some functions was originally an Israeli idea with aims at separating the land from its people, and restricting Palestinian responsibilities within the framework of some civil functions under the control of the Israeli military rule," he said. "We reject this idea totally."

PLO officials said they expect the meetings between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Palestinian peace delegates next week to focus on this idea.

"They will repeat the rejection to the idea," they said.

"We think Christopher will try to market the idea of early

empowerment with the word 'early assumption of authority' despite an unchanged content," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

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(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians see Trojan horse, page 2

# World Bank drafts W. Bank, Gaza plan

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN (R) — The World Bank has recommended a \$3 billion investment plan to revive the economy of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip over a 10-year period, Palestinians involved the scheme disclosed Monday.

The study said the plan proposes \$1.2 billion to be disbursed during a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule. The rest would be spent on infrastructure projects in the second five-year phase.

Multilateral donors, including Arab countries, are expected to fund public sector projects forming the investment package.

Palestinian economists close to the project praised the World Bank for what they see as the study's generally accurate reflection of economic distortions arising from occupation. But they rated the projected investment figures as low.

"The study's investment estimates are much less than the actual needs to rebuild the Palestinian economy to attain the levels of growth close to those of the surrounding states," said peace negotiator Samir Abdulrahman, who also heads the Palestinian side in talks with the World Bank mission.

"The amounts of funds allocated are much too conservative to cope with the problems facing our economy," he told Reuters in an interview during a visit to Jordan. "We are asking for more ambitious programmes to cover the costs of the interim period."

Dr. Abdullah estimated the

occupied territories would need to reach at least a 10 per cent annual gross national product (GNP) growth in the first five years of self-rule to narrow the gap with the economies of the region.

The World Bank estimates the area's GNP around \$3 billion while Palestinians put it at about a third less. The study also says the area suffered a six per cent drop in growth since 1987.

The World Bank undertook the study as part of multilateral Middle East talks to support the peace process by rehabilitating the occupied territories' ailing infrastructure.

The multilateral negotiations, covering secondary regional issues such as economic cooperation and water rights, complement the 21-month-old direct Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The study, completed in June after a series of fact-finding missions to the area early this year, recommends immediate, medium and long-term action within the \$3 billion investment masterplan.

The proposal will be presented for approval at the next multilateral working group on economic cooperation, due to open in Copenhagen later this year.

A World Bank mission last week concluded talks on the study's findings with Palestinian representatives.

According to the terms of the peace process, Palestinians and Israel should agree on a five-year interim period of self-rule. Talk on the final status of the territories should begin in the third year.

# Bus hijacker kills Israeli, wounds six

Combined agency dispatches

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip — A lone Palestinian hijacker rammed two cars killing one Israeli and injuring six others, five of them policemen, police said.

A bearded man forced out the bus driver and four passengers in Gaza City and set off south along a road used by the army and Jewish settlers, said a spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees.

He crashed the UNRWA vehicle head-on into a police jeep and a military administration car.

The dead man was a civilian employee of the Israeli military administration on the strip, police said. Two of the injured were in a very serious condition.

The Islamic Jihad movement claimed responsibility for the attack via loudhailers in the streets of Gaza City, witnesses said.

"We the military wing of Islamic Jihad takes responsibility for ramming the bus into two Israeli cars," activists shouted in the Sabra neighbourhood.

Islamic Jihad last week urged Palestinians to launch suicide attacks on Israelis to avenge the seven-day Israeli onslaught on Lebanon.

UNRWA Gaza spokesman Ron Wilkinson said: "The man

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Palestinians see Trojan horse, page 2

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Palestinians see Trojan horse, page 2

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His Majesty King Hussein with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel in Istanbul (AFP photo)

# King believes U.S. serious for peace

His Majesty describes visits to U.K., France and Turkey as fruitful

Trend to portray Islam as enemy is dangerous

Jerusalem integral part of peace talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday expressed his belief that the Clinton administration is committed to the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

Returning home after a three-week visit to Europe and Turkey, King Hussein said he had felt during his June visit to the U.S. that "President Clinton and his administration are committed to the peace process... and give it a very high priority on their agenda."

King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor visited the United Kingdom, France and Turkey during the trip abroad.

The King and Queen were received at the airport by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, members of the royal family, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyah and senior officials.

King Hussein told Jordan Television at the airport that his visit to Turkey was good and that it was based on the close relations between Jordan and Turkey.

"The visit was also a good chance to enhance bilateral relations and open new scopes of cooperation," the King said.

The visit was a rare chance to discuss all the important issues concerning us and this region of the world as well as the future," he added.

King Hussein said he did not know whether U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher was carrying any new proposals during his coming visit to break the stalemate in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"I am coming home now and I should review with the brothers all developments related to this visit," he said. "We hope that the U.S. official will carry with him positive suggestions that might reassure us on the situation in the present and in the future."

His visits to France and Britain, King Hussein said, were very successful.

He said he exchanged views with British and French officials on the situation in the Middle East.

In reply to a question on possible amendments to the Elections Law, King Hussein said: "Be patient till we see what happened of dialogue, which I think had took place during the period of our absence after the issue was brought to discussion... you will know the results in the right time."

Before departing Istanbul on Monday on the conclusion of his two-day visit to Turkey, King Hussein held talks with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel on ways to enhance relations between Jordan and Turkey and issues of common interest, situation in the Middle East and efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Hussein and Queen Noor were the guests of honour Sunday at a banquet hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Demirel.

The King delivered an address at the banquet in which he highlighted the role Turkey might play in bringing about stability to

the region and lauded the good relations binding Jordan and Turkey.

"I thank you Sir for the opportunity you gave me by inviting me to visit Turkey once again, and I am indeed more than happy that this has been possible. Looking back and looking forward, I can only feel the strength of these relations that have grown over the years between us," the King said.

"I treasure the memories of the past as we have struggled to work together to attain our common objectives for a better future for generations to come. We have embarked on a course trying to affect positively events in our region, be it in the search for just, durable honourable peace, the kind of peace that future generations can protect, live with and accept, and despite the difficulties encountered until this moment we have the feeling that this is one of the worthiest of causes, and if we are able to succeed, and by that I mean all concerned in establishing peace, we would have removed one of the root causes of instability in our entire region and carry out our duties towards future generations that they live in peace and security within the region at large."

"In Jordan, we have been throughout our history on the receiving end of the adverse effects of every disaster that befall our region. But together we have resumed our march, proud of the return of democracy to our country, proud of Jordanians regardless of their origins, proud of their achievements and ever

(Continued on page 3)

U.N. sanctions choke Iraq, page 4

# Iraq and Kuwait in war of words on invasion anniversary

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD — Iraq, marking the third anniversary of its invasion of Kuwait, Monday demanded the departure of the emirate's ruling Sabah family as a condition for peace in the region.

"It is impossible to accept them (the Sabahs). Therefore, their departure from Kuwait is a principal condition for the stability states and peoples in the region aspire to," declared the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah published an interview with Colonel Ala Hussein Ali, who was the prime minister of the "interim government" installed by Iraq after it occupied Kuwait, in which he described the invasion as "an uprising by the Kuwaiti people" against the Sabah family.

"Undoubtedly we (Kuwait) are an extension of Iraq," Col. Ali told Al Jumhuriyah.

"Kuwait... has never been part of Iraq," said the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra.

"Such a fact cannot be obliterated by armed aggression, unilateral resolutions from states or organisations imposed by force and through the American hegemony over the area and the world," Al Thawra said.

Shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, Iraq annexed the emirate and said it was Iraq's 19th province.

A U.S.-led multinational force drove the Iraqis out in February 1991. Iraq still suffers from sweeping trade sanctions imposed by the United Nations in response to the invasion.

"The events of Aug. 2, 1990 did not come by chance. They arose from the demands of the Iraqi people who still yearn for the return of Kuwait to the mother country," said the daily Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam's son Uday.

"The time will come" for the Iraqi people with their "inexhaustible patience" to reclaim Kuwait," said Al Thawra.

Babel accused the liberating forces which drove Iraq out of Kuwait of hypocrisy, claiming the U.S. and Britain themselves

ruled over "land belonging to other people."

"Empires cannot change history according to their wishes," it said, citing "Gibraltar, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland" as "British" colonies, and Alaska, Texas and Puerto Rico as the reluctant colonies of the United States.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, meanwhile, ruled out any reconciliation with Iraq while President Saddam remained in power.

He told the Cairo daily Al Ahram that Kuwait "is not prepared at present to accept any formula for reconciliation" with the Iraqi regime.

Sheikh Sabah said reconciliation depended on the "emergence in Iraq of a government acceptable to all the Arab World."

He also demanded that Iraq return prisoners Kuwait says it still holds.

Kuwaiti newspapers, also marking the third anniversary of the invasion, lambasted Baghdad for failing to obey ceasefire terms. "The crime of the age by

the Iraqi regime is too strong to be deleted from the world's memory," said Al Rai Al Am daily.

How can we forget, when (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein has still not abided by U.N. resolutions on Kuwait and the U.N. demarcated border," asked Al Watan.

U.S. officials marked the third anniversary by reiterating their commitment to the security of Kuwait and the stability of the region, Al Watan reported.

"Our commitment to your

security and regional stability still holds," U.S. Secretary of Defence Les Aspin said in what the newspaper called a letter to the Kuwaiti people.

Al Watan said that in a similar letter U.S. Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Colin Powell told Kuwaitis: "America will always be committed to the security of your country."

(Continued on page 3)

U.N. sanctions choke Iraq, page 4

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Amman informs with deepest regret and profound grief that

His Majesty King Baudouin I, King of the Belgians,

died on Saturday 31st, July 1993 at Montril (Spain).

A register of condolences will be opened at the ambassador's residence Wednesday 4th., Thursday 5th., and Friday 6th. August 1993 between 2 and 4 p.m.

## Palestinians see Trojan horse in empowerment

By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuters

AMMAN — Letting Palestinians run the occupied territories while they haggle for political control is an idea Washington likes and Palestinians can do without.

"It fragments a comprehensive solution and jumps over territorial jurisdiction," Palestinian peace delegate Saeb Erekat told Reuters in Amman.

"They (the Israelis) offered a model of functional self-rule that fragments the occupied territories."

The concept, called "early empowerment," has the strong backing of Israel and Washington and dates back to the 1978 Camp David accords.

Since then, all peace plans offered under ongoing Arab-Israeli talks have spoken of handing powers to the Palestinians to run their affairs without immediately giving them territorial control.

Palestinian peace delegates say they rejected the early empowerment plan during the 10th round of peace talks which ended in Washington in June because it fragmented the territorial unity of the occupied territories into "cantons."

Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the other Arab parties to the peace talks launched in Madrid in October 1991, have backed the Palestinians.

"The essence of what is being offered is limited authority in specific functions and restricted geographical areas," Sami Kilani, another Palestinian delegate, added.

Israel and the Palestinians are still wrangling over terms of a five-year period of self-government. Talks on final status of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem — seized in the 1967 Middle East war — would begin in the third year.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and Palestinian delegates fear current U.S.-Israeli backed plans for transfer of administrative powers would undermine the Palestinian goal of ending Israel's grip on the territories.

They say these proposals are only warmed over versions of earlier "canton"-style self-rule offered by all Israeli cabinets since 1981 to abort any hopes for a future Palestinian state.

"We reject being employees



Saeb Erekat

under the occupation's administration," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said.

"These proposals are meant to disintegrate self-rule authorities and block the path to statehood."

PLO Executive Committee member Suleiman Najjab agreed: "Early empowerment is to plunge us into an unknown end."

"It's real danger is that it divides the overall solution because early empowerment is not tied to the implementation of U.N. Resolution 242," Mr. Najjab said in an interview.

The resolution, which calls

on Israel to trade seized lands in return for peace, is the basis of the current talks.

But early empowerment remains the key in a U.S. draft document designed to bridge Israeli-Palestinian differences over the extent of self-rule. It is expected to figure highly in U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks during a tour of the region this week.

The U.S. proposal has not defined the area of Palestinian control, Palestinians want East Jerusalem to be part of it, even though Israel maintains that Jerusalem is its eternal capital.

Palestinians say Washington is pushing for early administrative control in health, education, municipality affairs, police and social affairs. As an added incentive, it is even offering to pay for expanded budgets of such authorities, they add.

In turn, Israel envisages four "cantons" — in Nabulus, Ramallah, Hebron and Gaza — surrounded by Jewish settler belts.

Palestinians say this would tear apart the West Bank by segregating residents and barring them from practicing full authority on matters that affect their future control over land.

Middle East experts say Israel and Washington, in the best of cases, want any Palestinian entity that emerges on the West Bank and Gaza as a result of the process to be linked to Jordan because of close historic, political and demographic ties.

The Kingdom and the PLO are already studying the basis for a future confederation.

Palestinians note that they are already working under existing civilian administration of the Israeli military in the territories and that early empowerment would not be much of an advance.

"Some departments headed by Israelis will be replaced by Palestinians, but will still follow Israeli rules," Mr. Najjab said adding that they would be accountable to Israel, not to an elected Palestinian-governing council.

Palestinians' darkest fear is that Israel would establish more Jewish settlements while negotiations continued, leaving nothing for the final level of talks.

"The real danger is isolating inhabitants from control and authority over land and its fate," Mr. Najjab said.

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"It's real danger is that it divides the overall solution because early empowerment is not tied to the implementation of U.N. Resolution 242," Mr. Najjab said in an interview.

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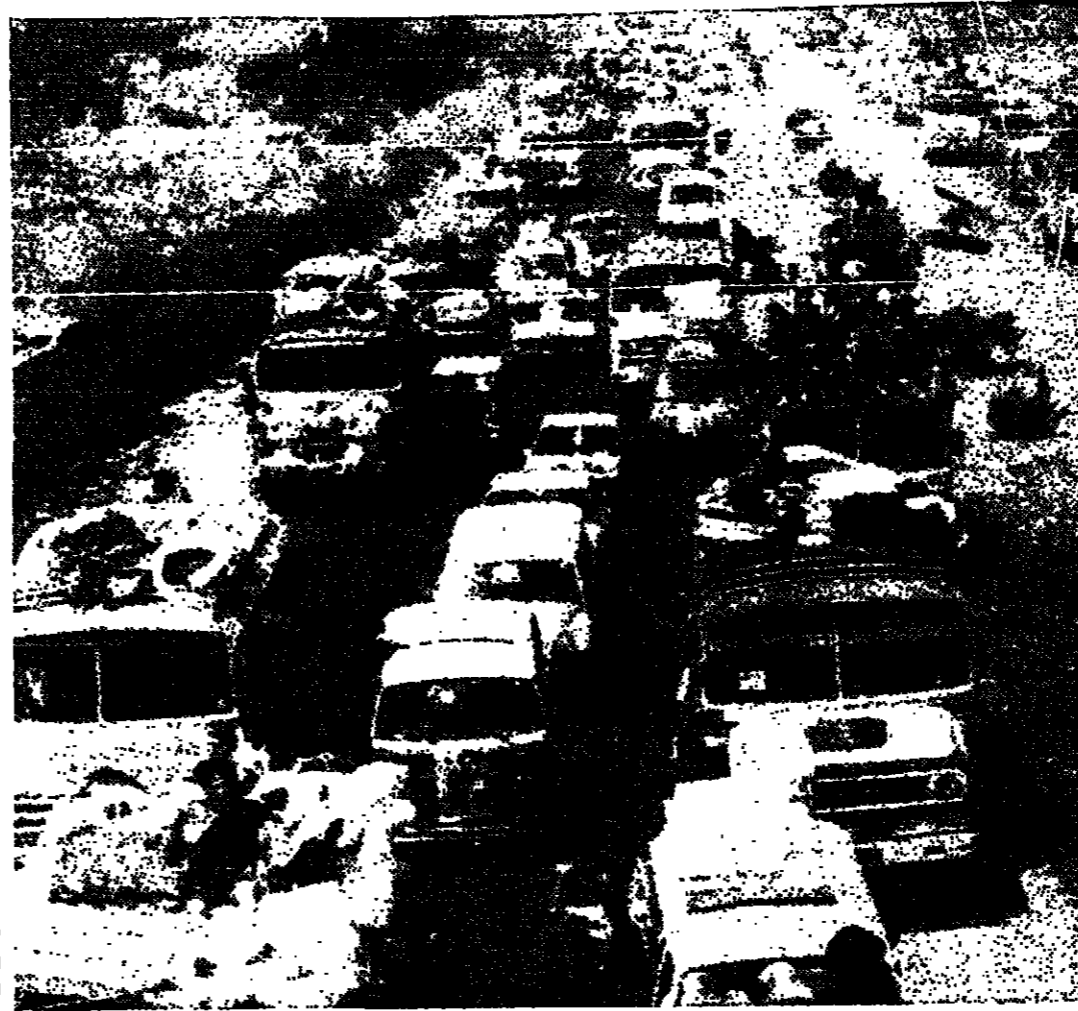
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Cars carrying thousands of Lebanese return Monday to South Lebanon (AFP photo)

## S. Lebanese return home, but find no place to live

By Rima Salamah  
The Associated Press

JIBSHEET — "I had put every penny I saved on my house. Now there is no house," wailed Abdul Raouf Shibeel, sitting on a small hill of concrete chunks and debris that used to be his home.

"All the furniture, clothes, electrical appliances are buried under a huge pile of rubble," cried Mr. Shibeel. He also lost his carpentry shop during the week of bombardment by Israeli jets, boats and artillery.

Tens of thousands of villagers shed tears and cried out in anguish Sunday when they returned to villages across southern Lebanon, only to find their homes uninhabitable.

Ruins extend as far as the eye can see from the roads that pass through Arab Salameh, Jarjou and Jbaa — major strongholds of Shiite Hizbollah which was the main target of the Israeli onslaught.

All that remain of one part of Jibsheet, Hizbollah's main political stronghold in South Lebanon, are rows of concrete houses

collapsed upon themselves and separated by massive bomb craters. Two dozens shops on both sides of the main street were burned or severely damaged.

In the hillsides of concrete rubble, the eye picks out a beam that once supported a veranda; a plastic machine gun and a doll; flimsy wooden shelves that held dishes; glass splinters from windows.

An Israeli shell last week blew out the grave at Jibsheet of a senior Hizbollah cleric — Sheikh Raghib Harb, shot to death in February 1984 by Israeli soldiers. Other tombs were destroyed and bombs sunk large holes in the earth. A half dozen men were making a new grave at the cemetery Sunday, burying an elderly villager killed in the week's fighting.

The carpenter Shibeel, like all of Jibsheet's 14,000 Shiite residents, fled with his wife and eight children Tuesday, after shelling intensified. They stayed in a school in Beirut, waiting for the ceasefire that ended the Israeli assault, in return for an understanding that Hizbollah would stop firing rockets into Israel

from the southern Lebanon villages.

"My children are young and none of them are Hizbollah members," moaned Mr. Shibeel. "What did I do to deserve this?"

In nearby Dweir, Afaf Hoteit — wearing a long black dress and a black scarf covering her hair — grieved with her daughters as they waited for a Red Cross ambulance to bring the body of her son, Ahmad for burial.

Ahmad was killed when a rocket fired by an Israeli warplane hit the living room, where the son and his father were arguing about whether they should leave and join the women staying with relatives in south Beirut. The father was wounded in his head, stomach and elsewhere and remained hospitalized.

In the village of Yater, north of Tyre, Babia Bakri, beat her face with her palms and shouted reproaches against Hizbollah when she saw her house had been destroyed.

"Is that how they (Hizbollah) want to liberate our land?" cried Mrs. Bakri.

Many of the half million displaced southerners returned to their villages Sunday to find their houses shattered by shells. They blamed Hizbollah, as well as Israel.

Huda Jaber, a housewife, was stunned to find her ground-floor apartment in the market town of Nabatiyeh almost demolished.

The kitchen table, which had several shrapnel holes, was pushed out to the street by exploding shells. The washing machine was gutted and the apartment had no walls separating its rooms.

"I won't repair my house, even if I had the money to do it, before the government decides clearly whether it wants these armed men to stay in our town," she said of the guerrillas.

Mrs. Jaber's voice choked as she shouted, "we don't want them. We don't want relief aid or financial assistance. We are not poor. We only want to live in peace."

During Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, the 18,000-man army disintegrated along sectarian lines and most of its troops joined the various warring militias. General Emile Lahoud has restructured the army into a 42,000-strong cohesive force, of multi-sect brigades, which has been gradually spreading state authority since the government ordered all militias disbanded.

The order had not been effective in the south, where Hizbollah not only fought the Israeli troops, but in certain villages, acted as a police and municipal authority, organising repairs, medical care and schools.

Hizbollah has said it is fighting the Israeli troops and their allied militia, the South Lebanon Army, on behalf of the Lebanese people.

But the army officer said, "ask the population. Civilians don't want them anymore, they tell us. We are the nation's army and it is our duty to protect the population."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Some exiles take Israeli offer of early return

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A group of 121 Palestinian exiles that Israel offered to allow home in April now want to return to the occupied territories, Red Cross officials said Monday. Israel accepted the February under a U.S.-brokered accord to allow back 101 of the 400 men expelled an early return in April. They refused unless they were offered an early return in April. They refused unless they were expelled were allowed to return, although five of them were expelled for medical reasons. A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross told AFP: "We are waiting for a green light from Israel to be able to bring the 121 back. The logistics have to be arranged."

### Iraq's deputy premier to visit Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz will visit Iran for talks with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Tehran's Resalat newspaper reported Monday. Resalat quoted informed sources for the report but gave no dates for the visit which would be the first top-level meeting between the two former war enemies in more than two years. Iranian Foreign Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment. Resalat said Baghdad had proposed that Mr. Aziz travel to Tehran to discuss "bilateral relations and some issues of interest," with Mr. Rafsanjani and other officials. "Iran has accepted the request for talks with Iraqi officials and has called for sorting out the fate of the prisoners of war," Resalat said.

### Technical problems delay Iraq cameras

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. experts have been delayed in installing surveillance cameras at two Iraqi missile test sites due to technical problems, but work should be finished Wednesday, a U.N. spokesman said here Monday. Work was complete at the Rafah test site, but problems with the telephone link with Baghdad had prevented the U.N. team completing installation at the second site. Yawm Al Azim, said Tim Trevan, spokesman for the U.N. Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament. The U.N. experts had initially aimed to complete the installation last week.

### Yemen government vows to boost jobs

SANAA (R) — Yemen's coalition government, appointed shortly after the country's first general elections in April, won a vote of confidence in parliament Monday and immediately pledged to boost jobs and cut inflation. But parliament in a statement also urged the new government to introduce constitutional reform to strengthen further the country's new-found democracy and multi-party system. Prime Minister Haidar Abi Bakr Al Attas told reporters after the vote his 31-member coalition cabinet would give priority to fighting unemployment and curbing inflation, estimated at 100 per cent a year. He said the government would also work on finalising the merger of the armed forces of the formerly South Yemen and North Yemen. The two states merged in 1990. Officials say most of the merger work has been completed.

### Harish asks Knesset to lift Deri's immunity

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's attorney general requested Monday that parliament lift the immunity of Interior Minister Ariel-Elon so he could be indicted for bribery and fraud, the justice ministry said. Mr. Deri, who leads the religious Shas Party, has been investigated for four years of charges he used his position as interior minister to extort favours from municipalities for himself and his party. Attorney General Yosef Harish handed the 61-page indictment over to the speaker of parliament, Shevah Weiss, two days before the parliament's summer break until Oct. 15. "Whenever when the parliament is required to consider lifting the immunity of one of its members, it's a sad day," Mr. Weiss told Israel Radio. The request first needs the approval of the parliamentary affairs committee. The committee's chairman, Hagai Merom, told the radio he would convene special summer committee sessions in order to hasten the process. Mr. Deri, who has in the past threatened to bolt the government on issues of religious observance, has said Shas would not make his immunity a coalition issue.

### UAE sets up ties with Bosnia, Vietnam

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has established diplomatic relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Vietnam at an ambassadorial level, the UAE's official WAM news agency reported. Citing a Foreign Ministry statement, it said the decision "stems from a joint desire to bolster cooperation and friendly ties" with those two countries.

### Ethiopia seeks assistance for refugees

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia appealed Sunday for emergency assistance for some 15,000 Djibouti refugees who have crossed into its territory since mid-July to flee army attacks. "Food, water, and shelter are the critical needs of the refugees," a government statement said. The appeal was made after a joint mission of the Ethiopian government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) visited areas along the Djibouti border to assess the needs of the refugees. The refugees have found temporary sanctuary in the towns of Assaita and Dubut on the road to the Red Sea port of Assab, which is in the newly-created state of Eritrea, the statement said. They are among a large number of displaced people from northern areas of the Red Sea region, where the Djibouti army recently launched an offensive against rebels. The Ethiopian Red Cross, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has been able to provide the refugees with only limited assistance.

### Sudan's population reaches 25 million

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The population of Sudan, according to a recent census, has reached 25 million, it was announced Sunday. The result of the census carried out last May, was announced in a report presented by Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi to the government. The most densely populated areas were Central State with 5.42 million and Darfur State in western Sudan with 4.74 million, the report said.

## Ceasefire in Lebanon puts army and guerrillas on collision course

By Mohammad Salam  
The Associated Press

HAROUF, Lebanon — Bearded young men of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah watched with dismay as Lebanese soldiers erected a checkpoint at the entrance to this Shiite Muslim village in South Lebanon Sunday.

"Beat it," a soldier shouted at the Hizbollah men, guiding a bulldozer to pave the narrow road, damaged during a week of Israeli air, naval and artillery attacks on guerrillas.

The soldier's behaviour was a clear indication that government troops planned to have the upper hand in South Lebanon, one day after a U.S.-brokered ceasefire ended Israel's devastating blitz.

It has been more than two years since the army erected a checkpoint in Harouf, within the area traditionally dominated by fighters of Hizbollah.

When one of the young men

argued, the soldier pointed his U.S.-made M-16 assault rifle at them and shouted, "Identity cards."

The soldier checked their identification, thoroughly frisked all six men and ordered them to leave, mumbling, "You're lucky. Had I found a knife with any of you, he would have ended up in jail."

An army officer in South Lebanon, speaking on condition he not be further identified, said government troops had confiscated two truckloads of Katyusha rockets since the ceasefire went into effect at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) Saturday.

Israel said it would stop the assault that nearly emptied south Lebanon, on the understanding Hizbollah would stop using the area to fire Katyusha rockets into Israel.

The army officer said the ceasefire accord "empowers us to confiscate Katyushas, which we will do."

Before the ceasefire, Lebanon's army did not have orders to strip Hizbollah of any

weapons.

The Syrian-backed Lebanese government had said it did not approve of rocket attacks on Israel, but could not stop the guerrillas until the Israeli troops withdrew from the "security zone" they occupied in southern Lebanon in 1985.

The new army orders appear to reflect a determination to protect the southern Lebanon population from Israeli reprisal by eliminating attacks on Israeli towns and preventing the guerrillas from sheltering in Lebanese villages.

"We won't give Israel the pretext to destroy a whole village to hunt one armed element," said the army officer.

He noted that the ceasefire accord "does not allow us to prevent guerrilla raids" in the "security zone."

"But if they (guerrillas) want to attack the occupied strip, they'll have to do it from unpopulated areas and they won't be allowed to hide in villages," the officer added.

"No one has asked us to give up our weapons," Sheikh Nasrallah said, apparently referring to attacks in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone."

The army command sent troops in armoured personnel carriers Sunday to southern villages that have been traditional strongholds of Hizbollah.

Helmeted troops, wearing bulletproof jackets and armed with assault rifles manned checkpoints throughout Hizbollah terrain, thoroughly frisking motorists and pedestrians and arresting those who carried unlicensed weapons.

"This is just the beginning," the officer predicted. "We'll launch house



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday is briefed by Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat on the ministry's plans to boost tourism in Jordan (Petra photo)

## Majali urges private sector, tourism ministry partnership

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday urged the Ministry of Tourism to open the door for the private sector to make investments in tourism projects in Jordan and to serve as an active partner with the ministry in promoting Jordan's tourist and archaeological attractions.

Tourist projects should be freed from formalities and bureaucracy in order that the standard of services to all vacationers, he said, said the Prime Minister during a visit to the ministry of tourism.

He believes that the ministry ought to increase the involvement of private Jordanian organisations and the local community in creating a greater awareness of the outstanding archaeological sites that exist in the Kingdom.

The Premier said that foreign ministry staff working abroad could be oriented on the Tourism Ministry's programmes and supplied with leaflets and other material to help market the country abroad.

Furthermore coordination should be stepped up with Royal Jordanian (RJ) the national airline, through its offices and stations abroad, said the Prime Minister. He urged the ministry of tourism to arrange with local travel agencies to encourage domestic tourism and try to attract visitors from Arab countries by supplying them with information leaflets at the borders. At the outset of the meeting, the Prime Minister listened to a briefing by Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat who spoke about plans to boost the industry in Jordan. The ministry plans to provide

world tourism offices abroad offering information about attractions in Jordan, said Mr. Hikmat. He went on to remark that the ministry has already set up the infrastructure for tourism-related occupations including the sale of souvenirs near archaeological sites.

We announced that, the ministry is in constant touch with tour operators abroad to increase the numbers of tourists visiting the country.

Directors of ministry departments outlined various ongoing projects such as setting up resthouses, small museums and other facilities in Madaba, Um Rasas, Mukawar and Ajloun.

Ministry Secretary General Nasri Atallah and Director of the Department of Antiquities Safwan Tell were present at the meeting.

## Economic groups seek ties with new Islamic states

AMMAN (Petra) — Private economic groups in Jordan Monday recommended that the Jordanian private sector formulate plans to promote economic and trade ties with the newly independent Islamic states.

Meeting at the Amman Chamber of Industry, under the chairmanship of President Khalidoun Abu Hassan, representatives of these groups said the private sector should follow in the footsteps of the government, which has established diplomatic ties with the Islamic republics.

They recommended that barter trade be launched with the republics, a task they maintained, can only be accomplished with the help of the government.

A leading Jordanian private sector businessman Tawfiq Kawar suggested the creation of a Jordanian holding company which would implement protocols between the government of Jordan and the governments of the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union.



Khalidoun Abu Hassan and the governments of the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. Director of the Housing Bank Zuheir Khouri recommended the creation of joint banking institutions with the states to finance



Tawfiq Kawar trade exchanges. According to a statement at the end of the meeting, agreement was reached on the formation of a committee which would include representatives of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Federa-



Zuheir Khouri tion of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, the Association of Bank's in Jordan, the Contractors Association, shipping agents and the Ministry of Industry and Trade. This committee would set up a

fund to finance studies on joint projects with the republics and ultimately create a holding company.

The statement said that agreement was also reached on the creation of a higher council for the private sector which would draw up the private sector's general policies and deal with economic issues and legislation.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Abu Hassan said that the Chamber of Industry is planning to set up a joint Jordanian-Turkish council for cooperation and coordination in matters related to markets in the republics.

He said that the Turkish government has already made contact with these countries to promote economic and trade links with them.

According to Mr. Abu Hassan, Jordan and Turkey will reach a final agreement on this issue soon.

## Jordan and PLO review tasks of joint committees

AMMAN (R) — Top officials from Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met Monday to review plans to form joint committees that would outline the scope of future relations, a source close to the talks said.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo had separate talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State Jawad Al Anani, officials said.

Mr. Abed Rabbo refused to talk to reporters after the meetings, taking place ahead of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

But one source said they dealt with the formation of the committees, their function and terms of reference.

Both agreed to form six committees in July to outline short and long-term cooperation between Jordan and Palestinians, starting with an interim five-year period of self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The teams will also consider the basis for a future confederation between Jordan and whatever entity emerges in the occupied territories as a result of Middle East peace talks, launched in Madrid in October 1991.

## Prince Ra'd appeals for cornea donations

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, president of the Friends of the Eye Bank Society Monday appealed to the public to donate more corneas for urgently needed eye surgeries.

At least 1,200 patients are on waiting lists to receive corneas in order to regain their sight and they count on local donors, said Prince Ra'd in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

So far, donors in Jordan provided 600 corneas, which were successfully implanted, but more are needed, he said.

The Jordanian community has

proved that it is a united family and can rely on its own means for medical and other purposes, said Prince Ra'd.

"We have now stopped importing corneas from other countries and rely on local resources; and the surgical operations conducted at several Jordanian hospitals are nearly 85 per cent successful," he added.

Prince Ra'd announced the creation of an Eye Bank Society branch in Irbid, urging the public to provide this branch with corneas and to support its services to the people in the northern part of the country.

## First relief shipment sent to Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — The first shipment of relief supplies collected in Jordan is now on its way to Lebanon to help the victims of Israel's recent attacks on southern Lebanese villages.

The shipment, which includes medical equipment, drugs, blankets and food supplies, has been organised by the Jordanian Popular Committee for Supporting the Intifada in the occupied Arab territories, in cooperation with the Arab Emergency Health Committee (AEHC).

The convoy of trucks carrying the supplies is accompanied by Mousa Abu Hamid, the AEHC's rapporteur and officials from the Jordan Medical Association (JMA).

Dr. Abu Hamid said in a statement before departure that the supplies will be handed over to the Lebanese authorities to be distributed to the victims and hospitals caring for the wounded.

He said he would meet with officials representing popular organisations to learn about the situation and the needs of the people in southern Lebanon, including the residents of the Palestinian camps, so that the committee can organise further medical and relief aid to the victims.

Meanwhile Minister of Aqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying that the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation will soon be sending a convoy of trucks with relief supplies to Lebanon.

The convoy, which will travel through Syria into Lebanon, will transport in-kind contributions, mainly drugs, tents, blankets and food supplies.

Dr. Abbadi, the organisation secretary general, said the relief supplies were contributed by organisations and individuals in Jordan following an appeal in the past week.

## Bus hijacker kills Israeli

(Continued from page 1)

was apparently carrying explosives and warned the driver and four UNRWA workers they would be killed if they did not stay where he left them on the coast road.

Mr. Wilkinson, who visited the crash scene, said: "The two cars were rammed off the road and the front one was right under the bus."

"Several people were seriously injured and one person was being cut out of the wreckage by acetylene torches."

The army had sealed off the area and were using a helicopter to search for the hijacker.

UNRWA looks after Palestinian refugees in the Middle East and is the biggest single employer on the occupied Gaza Strip.

In a statement UNRWA said: "UNRWA as an international organisation providing assistance to Palestine refugees, condemns the hijacking of a bus belonging to its education programme, and deplores the recourse to violence and the use of a United Nations vehicle for that purpose."

Military censors delayed this report for two hours.

The bus was hijacked in Gaza City just after students got off at 7:30 a.m. (0430 GMT), Arab reports and UNRWA officials said.

A man carrying explosives boarded the bus and forced the driver and four UNRWA employees to take a short ride to an isolated spot on the coastal road, they said.

The man then ordered the driver and officials off and warned them they would be harmed if they reported the incident, UNRWA officials said.

The man continued along the coastal road, an otherwise quiet thoroughfare often used by Israeli military vehicles, the reports said. He rammed the government vehicles on the road.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crown Prince visits geographic centre

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited the Royal Geographic Centre where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mar'i Al Kaabneh, several assistants and the centre's director. Prince Hassan met with Lt. Gen. Kaabneh and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces. The Crown Prince also met with senior army officers and officials at the centre and issued directives to them on the role of the Armed Forces in the economic and social development process, as well as developing the centre's responsibility in offering information on technical, social, economic and military issues.

### Minister performs surgeries

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Monday conducted several surgeries which included connecting arteries with veins on kidney patients to enable them to undergo dialysis treatments. Dr. Malhas told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the aim of these surgeries was to reduce pressure on the hospital's surgery units, saying that there was a group of kidney patients awaiting their turn for surgeries. "When officials practise technical or medical jobs with their colleagues in the profession they give them the incentive and impulse to perform their duty enthusiastically," he said. The minister added that he will perform other surgeries during the coming days.

### Trade minister cuts down on bureaucracy

AMMAN (Petra) — In efforts to decrease bureaucracy in the activities of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Minister Bassam Al Saket Monday issued instructions to directors of all the ministry's offices outside Amman to sign all papers that were earlier referred by these offices to the ministry in Amman for inclusion in the commercial register. To save time and effort, the minister called on these directors to simply contact the ministry for approval before signing the papers when registering new business in the commercial book of these departments. Earlier, the ministry's offices outside Amman were authorised to issue import/export permits, grant industrial licences and carry out other procedures, previously conducted by the Amman offices. Mr. Saket Monday also held separate meetings with Indian Ambassador to Jordan Arun Kumar Bodhiraj and Spanish Ambassador Juan Manuel Cabera. Dr. Saket discussed with the two envoys Jordan's relations with their countries in commercial and economic fields and ways of enhancing them.

### Irbid governorate voters register 57,280

IRBID (Petra) — The number of citizens in Irbid governorate who have registered to vote has reached 57,280, of which 28,853 are from the Irbid constituency, 6,807 from Jerash, 7,632 from Ajloun, 1,054 from the northern Jordan Valley and Al Koura, and 12,904 in Al Ramtha and Bani Kenana. The voter registration centres will continue taking names of citizens who did not register in the previous election in 1989 or those who reached the age of 19 years.

### Petra, Romanpress sign cooperation agreement

BUCHAREST (Petra) — The Jordan News Agency Petra and Romanpress, the Romanian news agency, have signed an agreement on cooperation in news exchanges, according to Petra director Khaled Mahadin. Mr. Mahadin said the agreement which was recently signed in Bucharest opens the

way for cooperation between the two national news agencies to exchange news materials and photographs and visits by journalists. Mr. Mahadin signed the agreement with the director of the Romanian news agency.

### Tax Department collects JD 7.5m-July

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department last month collected JD 7,570,544 against JD 5,974,611 in the same month last year, according to department director Mansour Haddadin. He said the department has collected a total of JD 84,068,184 in income tax since the start of 1993.

### 400 passports issued daily

AMMAN (Petra) — This summer the Civil Status and Passports Department has been issuing new passports and renewing others at the rate of 400 per day, according to Salman Al Qudah, head of the Passports Issuance Section. The process of obtaining a passport takes no more than a few hours, he said. Applications are now accepted from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Mr. Qudah said.

### 300 more engineers join JEA

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of 300 engineers were sworn in Monday at a ceremony held at the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA). With the new addition, the JEA registered members have risen to 28,993.

### Jordan, France review customs procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Customs Department Mohammad Al Jamal Monday discussed with a visiting French customs delegation ways of enhancing cooperation between the customs departments in Jordan and France. The delegation is visiting Jordan to study the feasibility of using computers in clearance procedures at the Jordanian customs department with the aim of reducing bureaucracies and routine procedures facing citizens.

### Orthodox society, AUB to sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Abdul Hamid Hallah, a representative of the American University of Beirut (AUB) will arrive in Amman Friday to sign a cooperation agreement between AUB and the Orthodox Culture and Education Society in Amman. The agreement aims to develop education relations between the two establishments, especially in educational consultancy fields. It also aims to update educational programmes and teaching methods at the society's kindergartens and schools and benefit teachers at the society through scholarship and training programmes offered by AUB.

### JNRCS to hold international camp

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) will Aug. 15 organise an international camp for youth. Some 100 youths representing Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Britain, Austria, the Netherlands, Japan, Bhutan and Italy will participate in the camp. Director of the camp's Administrative Committee Mohammad Al Tarifi said the week-long event will include lectures on the establishment of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Humanitarian Law, the JNRCS and the history and civilisation of Jordan.

(Continued from page 1)

hopeful that Jordan can be an example to others as well," King Hussein said.

In his address, Mr. Demirel welcomed King Hussein and the accompanying delegation, and lauded the King's efforts to enhance regional stability.

"I express my belief that the relentless efforts you have devoted to the prosperity and development of your country contributed to the stability and peace in the region," Mr. Demirel said, addressing the King.

"One of the major assets you provided to Jordan was the process of further democratisation. This important responsibility you have undertaken will be appreciated and treasured even more in the years to come."

"The Middle East problem is a major issue that has to be solved in order to bring about peace and stability in the region. The effects of this problem will not be limited to the region, but will have serious repercussions for the world peace at large."

"The instability emerging from this tension is a serious cause of (pressure) for Turkey. We hope that the golden opportunity created by the Middle East peace conference for the establishment of a long-awaited peace, stability and security in the region should not be missed and be properly used by all parties to work out a solution on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," the Turkish president said.

The Monarch has been in Britain since July 9, where he was

convalescing after suffering from an irregular heartbeat.

King Hussein flew to Paris Thursday for talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process and the violence in Lebanon.

He arrived in Ankara on Sunday.

Before leaving Turkey, King Hussein called on "all participants in the Middle East peace process to seize the last opportunity for peace in the region" and be warned of "the occurrence of long-term catastrophes if this opportunity is lost."

"Should this last chance be lost the region could be facing a catastrophe of far reaching consequences," said the King in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The King expressed concern over the rising tension between the three monotheistic religions — Islam, Christianity and Judaism — which he said could lead to the creation of a very dangerous situation.

The trend on the part of Western nations to picture Islam as a new threat to the world is also dangerous, he said.

"I believe that there is a growing impression that Islam represents a new danger facing the world and this is very disturbing because this impression is totally wrong," King Hussein said. "I hope that the current efforts will lead to a solution (to the Arab-Israeli conflict) and we hope that Jerusalem will be covered in the peace process because the city is sacred to the

## PLO opposes U.S. plan

(Continued from page 1)

empowerment in order to show that progress has been achieved," said a Tunis-based PLO official.

The 21-month-old peace talks stalled over the issue of Jerusalem and jurisdiction — two key points of contention between the two antagonists. While Palestinians insist that their jurisdiction be on all the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem during the interim period, Israelis want to exclude Jerusalem and consider it their "external capital."

"Early assumption of authority is an indirect way for the U.S. to separate Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

He said Palestinians would continue to reject this idea, and they seek a declaration of principles on interim self-government arrangements, which includes Jerusalem, jurisdiction and Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, land, water, security, etc.

Mr. Abed Rabbo and other PLO officials had conveyed their position to Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

"We sense a full Arab understanding of our position," he noted.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.
- Exhibition of British Archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### THEATRE

- Arabic play entitled "Ahlan Arab Summit" at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Arabic children's play entitled "Who Will Save Earth" at 6.30 p.m.

## Iraq, Kuwait in war of words

(Continued from page 1)

Gen. Powell stressed in his letter the importance of standing against what he called tyrants with a tendency to control neighbouring countries, Al Watan said.

Kuwait signed 10-year defence pacts with the United States, France and Britain after the war.

It is due to sign a similar defence agreement with Russia later this year.

Al Seyasseh said Arab disagreements over the Gulf crisis showed that the dream of Arab unity was a lie.

"We are not one people. We are nations and not one nation — we are a Kuwaiti nation, a Lebanese nation, a Syrian nation, an Iraqi nation and so forth. Let us abandon this dominant lie."

Kuwaitis remain outnumbered by foreigners in a population that has risen to about 1.5 million or almost three quarters of its level before the Iraqi invasion, a newspaper reported Monday.

The English-language Arab Times quoted Planning Ministry Assistant Under-Secretary Hamad Al Munawer as saying Kuwait had 1,496,000 inhabitants compared to 2.2 million before Iraq's seven-month occupation.

Mr. Munawer said Kuwaitis currently numbered 643,000 or 43 per cent of the population.

Kuwaitis have been outnumbered by expatriates for much of the post-occupation era despite post-war official policy of at least balancing the number of Kuwaitis and foreigners and preferably making Kuwaitis a majority.

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## Bosnia — ominous scandal for the West

By George Zarycky

NEW YORK — Sarajevo will soon fall. Bosnia-Herzegovina, as such, will cease to exist. The end will culminate a two-year death watch and mark the nadir of western foreign policy in the post-cold war period.

And Bosnia's agonising dismemberment will be met, depicted furrowed brows and public hand-wringing, with a collective sigh of relief resounding from the capitals of western Europe to the State Department and the White House.

Conservative estimates put the death toll at 200,000. Few of these are soldiers of organised armies who died on the noble fields of battle. This war was about ragtag militias, looters, weekend Serbian mercenaries and raiders, thugs killing civilians, "ethnic cleansing," mass rape as military doctrine, depopulation, the wholesale destruction of towns and villages.

It was about territory and conquest and settling scores centuries old. It was about Serbian hegemony and unparalleled international cowardice. The enormity and scope of the debacle boggles the mind.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Muslims will be hardpressed to find the difference between Somali warlords and Serbian militia leaders or between Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic. After all, aren't both of them war criminals?

The Muslims should have realised that in this scenario, they were like the Iraqi Kurds left to freeze to death in the mountains

north of Baghdad while George Bush and America were flushed with "victory."

They should have realised that the torrents of international condemnation and saber-rattling mean nothing unless you have oil or resources or threaten Americans. Genocide, ethnocide, death camps, slaughtering civilians fall out of the purview of U.S. or western "vital interests."

What else can any of us conclude as we watch this tragedy play itself out? Where do we ascribe blame? Whose failure was it?

There was the Bush-Baker-Gorbachev insistence on sticking to a cold war mind-set even as the last artificially cobbled, multiethnic empires were unraveling. There was the post-Gorbachev policy void, as President Bush and his minions ignored calls from Balkan leaders and foreign policy specialists who insisted that sovereignty claims by Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia be backed with force and resolve lest Serbia see inaction as the green light for revanchist expansionism.

And while first one shell and then another fell on Sarajevo, and Serbia's exploratory forces remained little more than lightly equipped militia and former Yugoslav army units (perhaps still smarting from defeat by Slovenian border guards), recommendations for limited air strikes to knock out artillery batteries were ignored as the United States debated peace dividends and the economy in the 1992 campaign.

And what of Europe? Bickering over Maastricht beef quotas, "great power" German-French gamesmanship and immigration quotas were key items on the agenda as atrocities led to the largest influx of refugees in Europe since World War II. As Lisbon talks began Geneva, which began Vance-Owen, which began "safe havens," Bosnia's agony intensified.

Croatia laid claim to its share. Serbia put a stranglehold on the rest. As envoys scurried from city to city, venue to venue, insisting that aggression must never be rewarded, the arm-twisting of Bosnian leaders was in full swing. Suddenly, President Alija Izetbegovic, who saw his country plundered and chopped up into pieces, was being recalcitrant, unreasonable, obstructionist in adhering to the principles of sovereignty and freedom.

The Christopher-Tarnoff doctrine may well be Bosnia's last will and testament. Noble ideals of democracy, liberty and human rights that all Americans hold dear will be selectively enforced by a leadership locked in the thrall of political expediency. Clearly, this is a muddled, dangerous message at a time when tensions are rising from Russia to Central Asia to Latin America to the Middle East.

In my 40 years, I have lived through far too many wars and human calamities of atrocious scale. But something, the right thing, was always said or done. Millions protested against the Vietnam war. The sickening conflict in Biafra brought international attention, benefits, donations. The India-Pakistan war in 1971 gave us George Harrison's concert for Bangladesh and world

attention, as did the outbreaks in the Middle East. Belatedly, Cambodia gave us "The Killing Fields," and the war of Ethiopia's government against the people spurred Live Aid to help starving millions.

Bosnia's public murder has nothing to do with compassion fatigue or the failure of journalists to make the story graphic and real. We have all seen the horrific pictures. Headlines and opinion columns have screamed for action. The mass rapes appalled us. So, too, the stark images of retarded children abandoned to die.

Bosnia's tragedy reflects the lack of will, courage, resolve, the fragility of the democratic idea espoused but not defended.

Bosnia is a horrible lesson, one that years of subsequent rationalisation, avoidance and analysis must not diminish. Moral evasions, when they eclipse our ability to see and respond to evil, will undermine our values and our fundamental beliefs at a time when the world is shrinking and so many are looking to the West for leadership. Slobodan Milosevic's triumph diminishes all of us.

The writer is specialist for Central Europe at Freedom House, which monitors political rights and civil liberties around the world. This article is reprinted from The Washington Post.

Rami Khouri is on leave. His column will appear on Aug. 17, 1993.

## Where it is 'dangerous' to cross the street

By Cherif J. Cordahi

The following "letter from Gaza" appeared in the July 23 issue of Middle East International.

The old man came running to the window of the car, his eyes welling with tears, his voice choking with emotion. "Please, help me, help me," he begged. "My house is flooded. My family is sleeping in water."

This is Shati — Beach Camp — home to some 53,000 Palestinian refugees in the Israeli occupied Gaza Strip. Salih Talib, 75, is one of the 600,000 refugees who make up more than two thirds of Gaza's population. His home, where he lives with his wife and eight children, can only be described as a hovel — two small rooms ankle-deep in water from a burst pipe beneath the ground. "It's always like this," he says, his small children clinging to his trouser leg. "This happens all the time."

Outside in the street, an Israeli army jeep, an iron grill across its windshield, transparent perspex glass covering its back to protect the soldiers in the rear from stones, passes by. As it does children, some as young as eight, emerge from the dust-ridden side streets to throw stones at it. Most miss. This is daily life in Shati, as it is in Gaza's seven other camps. Some 850,000 people live in Gaza, a strip of land at most 50 by 10 kilometres — a "chicken-coop" as one local Palestinian leader described it. It is in Gaza where the intifada, five years of intensified Palestinian struggle to "shake off" Israeli occupation, is fiercest. This is where last month a four-year old child was shot in the chest by an Israeli soldier, where a mother died of asphyxiation from Israeli tear gas.

Although the camp merges imperceptibly with Gaza City, an artificial barrier now blocks off the bordering streets. Ten-metre high walls of concrete-filled oil drums have been erected by the Israelis to block the streets. The idea, explained a local Palestinian, was to prevent children throwing stones at Israeli vehicles travelling along Gaza City's main roads. Israeli jeeps, with soldiers in the back, armed with machine guns and telescopic sights, constantly patrol the camp's "rubbish-filled" streets. Through a system of calls, Palestinian children are able to track the movements of the jeeps and attack with stones accordingly. Sometimes their knowledge of the location of a jeep in a parallel street without actually seeing it is so accurate that they are able to throw stones at it over a row of houses — and hit.

Ambulances, seemingly from every organisation from the Red Cross to the European Community, constantly shadow these centres of tension which ebb and flow through the camp with a speed that can catch the visitor unawares. Like stalking vultures, the ambulances wait with an air of inevitability to pick up the wounded — and the dead.

One minute, all can be peace and quiet, kids playing in the dirt,

mothers hanging out the washing in the bright sunlight, and the next, all will be running, scurrying like rats into dark doorways and maze-like side streets. Seconds later, an Israeli jeep will appear at the end of the street in a cloud of dust, and as it passes, puffs of dirt around it as the rocks land out of nowhere. When the dust has settled, life returns to normal, and the tension flows further down the street.

At the Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, the wounded lie in their beds. "I was shot six times," says Ra'ed, 13. It is the exaggeration of a child, but the dried blood on a plaster cast on his leg and emerging metal rods are testament to an Israeli bullet which shattered bones in his lower leg. A few minutes drive away, 53-year old Abu Salih is making tea in the ruins of his home. He is one of many victims of a deliberate Israeli policy of blowing up homes to turn the population against "wanted" Palestinians or "encourage" the "wanted" to give themselves up. Abu Salih is also a victim of a new kind of explosive — a "pressure bomb", which according to the U.N. the Israelis are using to demolish homes. Pressure bombs have the effect of blowing out the walls of a house. They even have the power to force out the pillars of reinforced concrete around which a home is built.

"It is Gaza where the intifada, five years of intensified Palestinian struggle to shake off Israeli occupation, is fiercest. This is where last month a four-year old child was shot in the chest by an Israeli soldier, where a mother died of asphyxiation from Israeli tear gas."

In the middle of a room on the first of Abu Salih's home, one of these pressure bombs had blown a hole through the reinforced concrete floor, leaving only a small grid of twisted iron rods. In another room, a straight line of broken floor tiles down the centre of the room clearly indicated the force of the explosion in the room below. This lifted the floor above into a sort of shallow dome before falling back down again; thus the line of broken tiles down the middle of the room. And light poured into the rooms as the walls collapsed into the street below.

Back in the centre of town, Israeli soldiers peer out from watch-towers around the compound of the civil administration, Israel's military government in the territories. Heavily guarded and surrounded by coil upon coil of barbed wire and a ten-metre high wire fence, the centre is linked across a main street by a pedestrian flyover fully enclosed perspex glass for protection against stone throwers. For the Israelis here, it seems, it is especially dangerous to cross a street.

## Courage to deal with sin

IT IS not very often that a precise and accurate measurement can be made of the success and honesty of a diplomatic mission like the present tour of the Middle East being made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The measure would be the number of times that he could bring himself to mention a particular numeral, 425, the U.N. resolution that called on Israel, in March 1978, to pull its troops out of "all" of Lebanon "forthwith." Because Israel has refused to obey and is still occupying the so-called "security zone" in South Lebanon, the Arab governments, the Lebanese prime minister and Hizbollah argue, repeatedly, that the local resistance has the legal right to attack Israel and its surrogate South Lebanon Army (SLA) on Lebanese territory in the zone.

To mention "425" reminds people that Israel ab initio is in the wrong because of its disobedience. Which is why Israel's great and good friends, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, did not mention it once in the several statements they made about "operation accountability" during last week.

What the latest flare-up in Lebanon should tell the Secretary of State is that there remain forces in the Arab World who continue to oppose Arab capitulation to Israel and to peace terms that do not address the root cause of all Middle East ills, especially the occupation of Arab territories and the denial of Palestinian rights.

Will he then expiate the flagrant sin of omission by plucking up enough courage to mention the root cause of the whole Israel-Arab crisis?

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Monday discussed the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, expressing hope that the Israeli aggression on Lebanon would not impede his mission of stimulating the peace process. It is hoped that the U.S. secretary would come this time more prepared to take steps towards forcing Israel to comply with the international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the paper. Warren Christopher's efforts are badly needed at this time to pave the ground for the peace process to achieve success in the aftermath of the seven-day onslaught unleashed by the Israelis on the Lebanese civilians, continued the daily. The paper said Mr. Christopher is coming to see a different situation and to find thousands of displaced people and a devastated area as a result of the aggression. Indeed, said the paper, this war underlines the fact that a speedy solution to the region's problems and the Palestine issue has become of paramount importance and of increasing urgency. The latest Israeli aggression nearly undermined the whole peace process and obstructed further U.S. efforts to achieve settlement, added the paper. What is hoped from the U.S. secretary this time, said the paper, is a serious endeavour designed to end the deadlock in the peace process by taking meaningful steps towards forcing the Jewish state into accepting the decisions of the world community, and abiding by the international rules.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised a statement by the Arab foreign ministers who met in Damascus the situation in Lebanon following the latest Israeli aggression. It was encouraging to see the Arab ministers sharing sympathy with their Lebanese kinsmen under the present circumstances, but it was indeed discouraging and disappointing to see the rich Arab states promising very limited financial assistance to the battered country, said Ahmad Al Misleh. It was somewhat pleasing to hear the foreign ministers reiterate the need for solidarity among Arab states in the face of aggression, but it was disappointing to see them fail to invoke the spirit of the Arab defence pact as provided for in the Charter of the Arab League, added the writer. He wondered why the Arab foreign ministers failed to repeat the Arab Nation's demand that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip end and wondered why the Arab ministers failed to demand that the embargo on Iraq end so that the suffering of the innocent civilian population there can come to an end.

M. KAHIL



## U.N. sanctions push Iraq to brink of tragedy

By Leon Barkho  
Reuters

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein, his meaning understood by few at the time, warned Kuwait darkly in 1990 that Iraq could tolerate many things but not threats to its "daily bread".

Short of cash after eight bruising years at war with Iran, he accused the emirate of stealing Iraq's oil and undermining its economy.

On August 2, 1990, Iraqi troops invaded.

But three years on, many of Iraq's 18 million people, who are sitting on the world's second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia, are on the breadline.

"A grave humanitarian tragedy is unfolding," the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation warned in a recent report.

U.N. sanctions, the report said, were forcing most of the population to live under "the most deplorable conditions".

Iraq, which has traditionally regarded Kuwait as part of its territory, has paid a high price for seizing the emirate.

International isolation followed with the world community rallying behind the U.N. trade blockade.

A formidable U.S.-led multinational force battered its army and ejected its troops in February 1991.

The alliance also smashed its infrastructure, depriving it for a time of power and telecommunications.

Revolts in the Kurdish north and Shiite south shook Iraq. The armed forces rallied to the government, crushing the revolts, but rebel Kurds, shielded by western warplanes, have since taken control of a large slice of the north.

Kuwait, for its part, emerged from the crisis with chunks of Iraqi land and territorial waters. A U.N. Border Demarcation Commission moved the emirate's border north and extended its maritime frontier almost land-locked Iraq.

But the Iraqi government remains unbowed.

Fiercy language against Kuwait's oil policy and its support of Iraq's exiled opposition is rampant in official newspapers.

The rhetoric is reminiscent of 1990 when Iraq accused the emirate of stabbing it "in the back with a poisoned dagger".

The official press still refers to Kuwait as a region and a newspaper published by Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, describes the emirate as an Iraqi province.

The border changes have caused anger in Iraq.

"History will never forgive any government agreeing to the new borders," says Ali Mohammad Hussein, a university lecturer.

"There is no end to Sabahs (Kuwait ruling family) insatiable greed. They want to swallow Iraq."

A school teacher who took part in the invasion, adds: "The more sacrifices we offer, the dearer that part of the coun-

try becomes."

But many Iraqis would like the government to forget the past and focus on ensuring that sanctions are lifted.

"It is getting tougher and tougher with every passing month," said a civil servant. "Even the government now realises that it has to do something to alleviate people's suffering."

Food prices have sky-rocketed. Flour costs 355 times more than before the embargo, sugar 149 times more, vegetable oil 106 times more and rice 70 times more.

Personal incomes, in terms of purchasing power, lag far behind. Average monthly wages for most workers have increased two to three-fold since 1990. Average monthly salaries range from 250 Iraqi dinars (five dollars at the unofficial exchange rate) to 1,500 dinars for senior officials and army officers.

U.N. relief workers in Baghdad estimate that the monthly food basket for a family of six, the average Iraqi family, costs some 5,400 dinars. It cost about 110 in 1990.

"It is mass punishment. And first victims are the Iraqi people who the U.S. and allies claim they have nothing against," said a shopper in Baghdad's central market.

The Security Council has linked any lifting of the blockade to compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms, including the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The western Gulf war allies, who initially linked any ending of sanctions to the departure of Saddam Hussein, have backed Security Council demands for compliance with military action.

In January, they launched air and missile strikes following one of many standoffs over the ceasefire terms.

Washington hit Iraq's Baghdad intelligence headquarters with missiles in June over an alleged plot to kill former President George Bush on a Kuwait visit.

The West also maintains no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq to protect rebel Kurds and dissident Shiites from attack.

But diplomats say neither sanctions nor the threat of western military action threaten Saddam Hussein's hold on power.

"The no-fly zones could not divide the country. Even the western-guarded Kurdish rebel enclave in the north catches cold when Baghdad sneezes," one diplomat said.

Following a standoff in July over future monitoring of its missile programmes, Iraq has shown signs of wanting a compromise that will start its life-blood oil exports flowing again.

In the meantime, Baghdad preaches patience to its people.

The official press publishes statistics listing massive deposits of cash-earning minerals like sulphur and phosphate.

"There is a tap of gold under each Iraqi," one newspaper added, in a readily-understood reference to Iraq's oil wealth.

## LETTERS

### Gratuitous insolence

To the Editor:

One hears everyday about different types of harassment, ranging from sexual to racial. However, unfortunately, one cannot really understand or relate to it until it happens to him/her.

I am a 19-year-old Jordanian female student who studies in the United States. Now I am doing a summer course at the University of Jordan. I had nothing to complain about regarding university life. That is until last week.

I was standing outside the main gate, waiting for a friend. I was conservatively dressed and minding my own business when a bearded man (of about 30) approached me and said to me in Arabic: "Next time you come here, wear something."

I was very shocked and asked: "What?", thinking that I had misheard him. He then pushed my shoulder and said: "I said go home and change," and proceeded to enter the university campus.

I was stunned. I was wearing a pair of jeans and a T-shirt, dressed like the majority of the girls at the university.

I live in this country and am tolerant of the various social trends existing in our society. The act against me was totally unnecessary. That was the first time I was ever harassed and there was absolutely nothing I could do about it. The moment he pushed my shoulder I realised that I was helpless and I truly felt that if I had answered him back, he would have hit me. Perhaps I was being unrealistic thinking that he would have gone that far, but he showed no hesitation in pushing me, and I was frightened.

The reason I have written this is to show that this does go on in public and I believe it is my duty to express my concern with the growing conservatism and lack of tolerance amongst the extremist tendencies in my country.

I was not dressed in a disrespectful way and therefore do not believe that this man had any right to do what he did. As a young Jordanian, I would like to see more tolerance of differences that exist in our society.

Gestures like the one I witnessed are absolutely unnecessary and gives us a poor name locally and internationally.

Zain Habbou,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## New technologies challenge masters of video game world

By Braven Smille  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Mario Brothers and Sonic the Hedgehog may have the hearts of video game addicts all to themselves — but only for now.

The masters of the video game world, Nintendo Co. and rival Sega Enterprises Ltd., are facing some tough choices with the arrival of high-powered multimedia devices launched by computer industry powerhouses.

Nintendo burst on the scene in 1983 with the Nintendo Entertainment System and an array of appealing games for use with its specialized hardware.

The Mario Brothers and Street Fighter II soon had children and their parents glued to television screens, fingers at the game control switches.

The enormous popularity of those games made Nintendo a household word. While the world limped through recession, over the past five years Nintendo tripled its sales to \$4.9 billion in the last fiscal year ended March 31.

"We have always made the best (software) and sold the most and we will continue to make the best and sell the most," Nintendo President Hiroshi Yamauchi boasted recently.

But Sega's whimsical "Sonic the Hedgehog" has been nipping at Nintendo's heels since 1991, when the software mascot hit the market along with the company's Genesis game player.

Sega sold 7.5 million of the devices in the last fiscal year, up from 3.6 million the year before. In fiscal 1992, Sega posted sales of \$3.62 billion, up 68.1 per cent. Nintendo sells 61 per cent of its software and 73 per cent of its hardware in the United States; Sega is less dependent on the U.S. market, selling 35 per cent of software and 46 per cent of hardware to Americans.

The two companies have parlayed their knack for making addictive games into a market worth at least \$5 billion a year for home-use software alone, said Chuck Goto, an analyst for S.G. Warburg Securities in Tokyo.

But analysts say their success may have bred complacency, while computer firms, including NEC, Fujitsu Corp. and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., hatched plans for multimedia systems.

The multifaceted, user-friendly systems also will run video game compact discs with powerful 32-bit processors that give them an edge over Sega and Nintendo's 16-bit machines in terms of responsiveness, colour and sound.

Bits are the smallest units of computing power; the more bits a processor has, the more information it can process simultaneously. Today's standard personal computer runs on Intel Corp.'s 32-bit 486 microprocessor.

The 3DO interactive multimedia, made by San Mateo California-based 3DO Co., which is backed by Matsushita and other companies, is expected to let users shop electronically, compute, edit home videos and perform

other tasks without moving from their chairs.

Atari Corp. of Sunnyvale, California, also is introducing a multimedia machine, the Jaguar, that will run games in simulated 3-D and play audio CDs and Kodak's new photo CDS. The 64-bit device, which can be connected to cable TV and telephone networks, will retail for approximately \$200. Jaguar will be test marketed in New York this fall with a national roll out next year, Atari said.

Here's where the hard choice comes in: none of the newer devices are likely to be compatible with the older Sega and Nintendo hardware.

Nintendo President Yamauchi says he's confident game buyers will continue to prefer his product to those of high-tech rivals because of Nintendo's lead in software.

"Whether you have a 16-bit or a 32-bit machine doesn't matter. More fun, more entertaining software is what counts," he said.

Sega and Nintendo are proven

masters at coaxing fun products out of their software writers. Judging from lackluster sales of video game software for PCs, the computer makers are not, market analysts say.

"I think they are just beginning to wake up to the potential of games, with Matsushita's 3DO efforts an obvious example," said David Bender, an analyst for Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities in Tokyo, noting the "failure of the personal computer makers in the past to produce user-friendly home computer game machines."

Sega spokesman Munehiro Uemura said 37 new disc-based titles to be offered by the company this year would help keep its 16-bit disc drive system ahead of rivals like 3DO.

Sega also recently bought the rights to Video Image Compression technology from Sunnyvale-based Supremacy Technology in a bid to enhance its 16-bit CD game graphics. That know-how is essential for the sophisticated three-dimensional graphics

needed to make the next generation of machines.

Some analysts also say the software advantage that Nintendo and Sega now have is about to be undermined by software writers who — in a most un-Japanese way — are defecting to the competition.

Nintendo depends on contracts with outside companies for nearly all of its software development and has tightly restricted the number of titles it licenses each year to keep quality high. It has also relied on a tacit agreement preventing its software specialists from moonlighting for Sega.

Gary Chan, an analyst with James Capel Pacific Securities in Tokyo, said conditions set by Nintendo are so strict that even its most valuable hitmakers, like Capcom Co. and Konami Co., have already split ranks.

"I would assume that software houses will be more than happy to write for it (the Jaguar)," said Mr. Bender. "I think the move to CD-Rom is going to kill Sega and Nintendo."



High powered multimedia devices threaten the world of video games (file photo)

## U.S. has to convince Arabs it can deliver peace

By Paul Eedle  
Reuters

CAIRO — U.S. success in brokering a truce in Lebanon cannot hide the size of the challenge facing Secretary of State Warren Christopher: the Middle East peace process is going nowhere and Arabs doubt U.S. commitment to fix it.

Mr. Christopher is due to arrive in Cairo on Monday morning at the start of a tour of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria and perhaps Lebanon that both Arabs and Israelis hope might rescue their 21-month-old peace talks.

The negotiations cry out for bold new ideas to break the deadlock on the central issues: How much independence Israel will allow the Palestinians and how to persuade Israel and Syria that the other is serious about peace.

But the Arabs fear that Mr. Christopher and U.S. President Bill Clinton have not yet made the personal commitment to Middle East peace which the process needs to succeed — and which their predecessors, James Baker and George Bush, made.

One concerned Arab diplomat said: "I think we may be moving in the right direction because we have now finally got Christopher out here...the more we get him involved, the more he will be forced to play a political role so he would succeed."

Palestinian strategist Nabil Shaath commented more bleakly: "I don't think the top leadership of the United States has really yet taken the decision to plunge into these negotiations and really give them the kind of priority needed to get them moving."

Diplomats expect Mr. Christopher to continue pushing a controversial U.S. draft plan for an interim five-year period of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But events may be moving on. The parties themselves have begun exploring more radical ways forward.

One is to defuse argument over the interim period by starting immediate, parallel talks on a permanent settlement, perhaps agreeing that this would involve a confederation between the Palestinians and Jordan to ease Israeli fears of an independent Palestinian state.

The other idea is for Israel to make an immediate, partial withdrawal from occupied territory to give substance to self-rule. The Israelis have offered to leave Gaza: the Palestinians want to add Jericho so there is also a withdrawal on the West Bank.

U.S. diplomats have been fighting to keep their paper in play, insisting on preserving the negotiating rules they laid down before the peace process began in Madrid in 1991.

The Palestinians fiercely attacked the paper at the last two rounds of talks in Washington, saying it does not define the territory where their self-rule body will have jurisdiction and in particular does not give them control of East Jerusalem.

An Israeli official said he hoped Mr. Christopher could ex-

tract from the Palestinians full texts of the amendments they wanted.

Mr. Shaath said the Palestinians had prepared texts on all points but would probably hand them over only if the United States changed its position on jurisdiction and Jerusalem.

The Israeli official said he hoped Mr. Christopher could break the stalemate between Israel and Syria by talking direct-

ly to President Hafez Al Assad. "There is a limit to what they can do in Washington," he said.

"The people negotiating in Washington are not the centre and focus of decision-making."

But the Arab diplomat said: "I personally don't think you are going to get movement on the Syrian track unless there is substantive movement on the Palestinian track."

Israel will not discuss details of

a withdrawal from the Golan Heights until Syria says whether it accepts a full peace including embassies and open borders. Syria will not discuss details of peace until Israel agrees to total withdrawal from the Golan.

Mr. Christopher himself has played down any hope that his tour would produce a breakthrough. Most Arabs would say it was a wise precaution but hardly encouraging.

### JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

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Next Draw takes place on August 17, 1993  
First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

## Christopher says decision time is near

(Continued from page 1)

ceasefire in Lebanon.

The last round of talks ended in Washington on July 1, bogged down over proposals for an interim period of Palestinian self-rule and the Golan Heights.

Mr. Mubarak also announced he had asked the Arab states, Japan and other countries to contribute to a fund for Palestinian economic development as a way of boosting the peace process. He did not elaborate.

"The negotiations under any circumstances shouldn't stop. They should continue because the peace is so precious," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Mubarak spoke at a joint news conference after their luncheon meeting at Ras Al Tin palace in this resort city.

Mr. Christopher said he hoped "to capitalise on the tragic situation in Lebanon, to use it to remind the parties how important it is to move forward with the peace talks."

Last week, Israeli artillery and warplanes pounded targets in South Lebanon in retaliation for rocket attacks by guerrillas. The fighting was the most intense in 11 years.

Mr. Christopher said it was possible fighting in Lebanon "has itself given a new burst of energy to the negotiations."

He cautioned, however, that "we don't expect any breakthroughs on this trip."

Mr. Christopher said that if the negotiating parties were to produce agreements "they must not only talk, but they must be prepared to make decisions."

U.S. efforts have led to "a significant de-escalation in the hostilities in South Lebanon," State Department spokesman

Michael McCurry said during Mr. Christopher's trip.

A U.S. official travelling with Mr. Christopher said arrangements for improving stability were needed to ease the security concerns of parties to the talks.

Mr. Christopher was expected to ask for such guarantees from Syria, the sole party able to control groups like Hizbollah guerrillas.

The U.S. official who spoke anonymously declined to say if Washington had asked Damascus to forbid arms shipments from Iran to Hizbollah.

Another diplomat said: "The Syrians must understand that they have more to get from the peace process than from supporting those who are opposing it."

In Tunis, Arafat advisor Bassem Abu Sharif said Mr. Christopher's current mission could be the "last chance" for peace in the region.

He said it was up to Washington to kick-start the faltering peace process, warning: "If the status quo remains in the Middle East, the peace process will be destroyed and there will be catastrophic strategic consequences for the international community."

Mr. Abu Sharif said that the PLO wanted peace but "will not give in to pressure" to "cede the rights of the Palestinian people."

He said any attempts to "reduce the territorial sovereignty of the Palestinians or to exclude the holy places (East Jerusalem) will only end up destroying the peace process."

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral Middle East peace talks announced Monday he will boycott Mr. Christopher this week.

Delegation chief Haidar Abdul

Shafi told AFP: "I will not meet Christopher. I feel there has been no change in the American position."

Dr. Abdul Shafi was also protesting at the seven-day Israeli assault on Lebanon.

"I believe that the American position remains as was presented to us in the tenth round of negotiations, which we have rejected and therefore I have no desire to meet Mr. Christopher," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said after nearly three months of debate Washington still wanted Palestinians to accept limited self-rule — administrative functions — without any control of land.

Peace delegation spokesman Hani Ashrawi said several members of the delegation would nonetheless meet Mr. Christopher and insist that East Jerusalem is occupied territory and must be part of any area over which the Palestinians are given interim autonomy.

"We are not obliged to accept anything but a Palestinian delegation will meet Christopher in line with PLO policy," he said.

Faisal Hussein, chief of the Palestinian peace team, would lead the delegation.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday the ceasefire ending Israel's war against South Lebanon was a step towards talks with Beirut and Damascus.

"The understanding culminating in a ceasefire has created the basis for a dialogue with Syria and Lebanon," Mr. Rabin told a weekly cabinet meeting, government sources said.

He said the "understanding" brokered by Mr. Christopher with Syria and Lebanon to halt the guerrilla rocketing of Israel's border communities was in line with Israel's aims.

## Lebanon army to deploy

(Continued from page 1)

gun permits and passes issued by the Defence Ministry, which had allowed guerrillas to pass through army checkpoints without being searched.

Israel meanwhile, continued to withdraw its forces from the "security zone" Monday for the second day running after doubling its strength there during its onslaught.

Security sources said 700 soldiers, 40 artillery guns, 28 Merkava tanks, 34 M113 armoured vehicles, 40 troop transports and eight mobile operations rooms had crossed the border into Israel since Sunday.

Israel normally keeps around 1,000 troops in the "security zone."

The Lebanese deployment would put the army into position to prevent guerrillas from using villages as staging points for attacks on the "security zone" Israel declared in southern Lebanon in 1985.

The Beirut government has not decided to ban guerrilla attacks on the "security zone." But it has declared its opposition to firing rockets across the border at Israeli towns, to avoid Israel's ruthless retaliation.

In Israel, defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Ami commented: "... Anything that the government does to prevent operations against Israel and the security zone is welcome."

Israel has said guerrilla assaults that killed seven soldiers in the zone in one month were the reason for the air, sea and artillery onslaught.

That blitz was halted by the U.S.-brokered ceasefire Sunday, two days before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East swing promoting an 11th round of Arab-Israeli peace

talks. He was in Cairo Monday.

Israel has said the ceasefire was based on the understanding that Iranian-backed guerrillas of Hizbollah would stop firing rockets across the border.

Lebanese government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the order to Hizbollah to halt rocket attacks came from Iran at Syria's request.

The army fell apart during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war. Now 40,000-strong, it has not returned to the far south during the post-1990 revival of central government authority elsewhere in the country.

Local guerrillas kept their weapons when other civil war factions disarmed, on the argument they were fighting Israeli occupation in buffer zone. Palestinian guerrillas also operate in the area.

The Higher Defence Council includes Prime Minister Hariri, Defence Minister Mohsen Faris, Foreign Minister Faris Bouze, Interior Minister Bechara Merhej and senior army commanders.

The cabinet has appointed a committee headed by Mr. Hariri and Mr. Dalloul to make the necessary contacts with the U.N. command to ensure the deployment.

Government sources said the troops would fan out in stages to the Israeli-held "security zone" borders.

"We will put all our capabilities to deploy the army in U.N. areas to preserve people's security," Mr. Dalloul told Reuters. He refused to give details of the deployment or specify the areas.

Israeli artillery systematically shelled cemeteries in South Lebanon villages during its blitz last week, a Red Cross spokesman said.

# European Community plunged into monetary and diplomatic turmoil by ERM collapse

BRUSSELS (R) — Financial markets, sensing lower interest rates, savaged weak members of the European Community's (EC's) foreign exchange grid Monday after EC finance ministers effectively set the currencies loose to find their own levels.

Dutch Finance Minister Wim Kok called it "a black day."

The 12-nation bloc's dream of a single currency by 1999 at the latest lay in tatters and recriminations were expected.

French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur fired the first salvo in Paris, blaming high German interest rates caused by the soaring cost of German unification for heavy speculation against the currencies in the EC's exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

It was the most direct French criticism of Germany since the European monetary crisis began last September when the British pound and the Italian lira were blown out of the ERM.

But Mr. Balladur took some stinging out of his news conference remarks when he said the Franco-German relationship remained strong and the basis for any durable European framework.

He spoke after the franc fell by roughly three per cent against the mark on currency markets. The Danish crown, Belgian franc, Spanish peseta and Portuguese escudo were also weak.

European stock markets were sharply higher in anticipation of a round of EC interest rate cuts after the ERM decision. Floating

ERM exchange rates will also damage EC internal trade.

The EC ministers and their central bankers, meeting in Brussels from midday Sunday until early Monday, decided to expand the ERM fluctuation limits to 15 per cent either side of their central rates from 2.25 or six per cent for most members.

Only the German mark and Dutch guilder clung on to their existing linkage in the grid, the vehicle supposed to carry the community to its single currency goal in 1997 or 1999.

"This is an almost floating system with the exception of Germany and the Netherlands. A collapse would have been a disaster. This is not a disaster but it is a black day," the Netherlands' Kok

said after the Brussels ministerial meeting.

In Bonn, German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said he expected the ERM to stabilise soon near its pre-meeting levels.

Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger told the same news conference in Bonn the limited floating meant that in future dealers would find it harder to profit from ERM speculation.

EC Economic Affairs Commissioner Henning Christophersen said the widened ERM bands must not lead to a series of competitive devaluations within the Community. Greater responsibility now lay with member government and politicians.

British Prime Minister John Major called the present EC

monetary union timetable totally unrealistic.

In Copenhagen, Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen told reporters: "The speculators succeeded in driving a wedge between France and Germany. But hopefully the cooperation can be strengthened again later."

Former British chancellor of the exchequer Norman Lamont, who was accused of making a dramatic policy U-turn last September over the pound, told BBC radio: "This actually is the end of the ERM in all but name. They have preserved a fig leaf but they have margins of fluctuation that are so wide..."

Mr. Lamont's successor at the British Treasury, Kenneth Clarke, said he had insisted at the

Brussels meeting on keeping an outline of an ERM grid to avoid a 1930s-style round of competitive devaluations in Europe.

Most of the strains within the ERM were caused by German interest rates which have been kept relatively high to hold a lid on domestic inflation and money supply following German unification three years ago. Other EC countries, faced with various stages of recession, have had to track German rates in order to maintain their currencies' ERM parities.

Immense speculative pressure was unleashed on markets after the German Bundesbank decided last Thursday to leave its market-sensitive discount rate unchanged at 6.75 per cent.

## Japan firms eye investment abroad on yen's rise

TOKYO (R) — The yen's continued strength is promoting many Japanese companies to consider moving production centres to more cost-efficient countries, industry sources said Monday.

The yen has risen more than 16 per cent since the beginning of February when it was valued around 125 to the dollar.

"With the yen above 110 (to the dollar) it will be very difficult for Japanese firms, especially manufacturing industry, to stay internationally competitive," said Yoshihiro Furukane, senior economist at the Yamaichi Research Institute.

cheaper centres outside Japan rather than boost domestic investment, economists said.

According to an annual survey by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), more than 95 per cent of the firms polled said they are unable to cope with the dollar under 110 yen.

JETRO issues the survey every year but this year, for the first time in several years, decided to include questions on the high yen's effect on production.

JETRO's survey indicated that among 768 firms 257 were considering increasing overseas production or shifting domestic production to foreign countries.

The survey also showed that 396 out of 734 companies were considering boosting overseas investment to increase capacity at existing production plants abroad.

"Although there are no comparisons to the figures, a move towards emphasising overseas investment is gathering momentum among Japanese firms," a JETRO official said.

## Russia's rouble fiasco produces chaos in Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Russia's invalidation of old roubles has hurt all the former Soviet republics, but none more than Georgia, whose war-torn economy is in chaos.

Rather than accept either old roubles or Georgia's own poorly-printed currency, stores and businesses throughout the country have simply closed their doors.

The Georgian government, headed by former Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze, has been forced to declare that as of Monday, only its own currency will be valid.

But Georgia's currency is a cheaply printed coupon originally intended to supplement the rouble not replace it. The value of the coupons has fallen 85 per cent in the past four months — and most Georgians avoid them if they can.

Georgia has been torn by three civil wars since independence two years ago. The first ousted Zviad Gamsakhurdia from the presidency. The second pitted Georgians against the Ossetian ethnic minority.

The third, and bloodiest, is in the separatist province of Abkhazia. At least 2,000 people have been killed since Abkhazia declared independence last year and Mr. Shevardnadze sent in troops.

Traditionally, Georgia was one of the richest Soviet republics, its southern climate produced bountiful harvests and its businessmen were sharp speculators.

But the cost of war has severely strained Mr. Shevardnadze's government. Fuel is in such short supply that many factories have closed.

Russia's declaration stuck the other 14 former Soviet republics with billions of roubles whose value was suddenly in doubt. Hardest hit were the half-dozen nations, including Georgia, which were still in the process of introducing their own currencies.

Strapped for cash to pay soldiers and other government workers, Georgia's National Bank introduced its coupons in April. But the tiny notes, which originally were equal to the rouble, quickly plummeted in value.

The current exchange rate is seven coupons to the rouble.

Few of Russia's 1993 roubles have filtered south to Georgia. The vast bulk of bills in circulation here are old.

In Georgia, the majority of shops have remained shut for the past week.

## Prices rise, shortages emerge Indian truck strike bites

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Shortages and high prices began to bite in parts of India as cargo haulers took a highway strike into the second day Monday, with no solution in sight over their demands for an end to inter-state levies.

Essential commodities such as groceries and vegetables were already running short in Bombay, the country's commercial capital, as up to 1.8 million trucks stayed off the roads, crippling the movement of cargo.

No trucks were coming into the city of 12 million people and now going out, affecting supplies, residents said.

The Press Trust of India blamed the Bombay shortages on panic-buying by citizens. A run on markets and shops hit several other towns and cities ahead of the strike's start Sunday.

In New Delhi, whose borders with neighbouring states were jammed by idle trucks, the prices of the last supplies of onions, potatoes, tomatoes and beans at vegetable markets were marked up 30-50 per cent.

There was no panic however

over the availability of petrol and cooking fuel after state-owned oil companies reinforced stocks.

Prices in the edible oils market rose sharply. The Indian Pharmaceutical Congress said the supply of essential drugs and vitamins, already hit by floods that damaged railways in parts of India, would be affected.

After the breakdown of overnight talks with the government, the powerful All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) said the strike would continue until the government conceded.

Union spokesman S.P. Singh said nothing short of a notification ending the levies on transporters, which add about 21.8 billion rupees (\$726 million) to state coffers every year, would satisfy the union.

"It is a case of being twice bitten," Mr. Singh said, referring to two previous strikes that were called off after the government promised to consider their demands sympathetically.

Talks with the government broke down because the union suspected it did not have the political will to accept the demands, strongly opposed by states which stand to lose precious revenue.

The AIMTC said the strike is "100 per cent successful and inter-state and intra-state movement of goods continues to be crippled," rejecting official claims that it evoked only a partial response.

Hundreds of trucks, some loaded with tea, cotton and insecticides, were parked on the capital's border with Uttar Pradesh state. Scores of transport company offices were shuttered.

Truckers napped or played card games and the border checkpoint, which handles about 400 trucks a day, was deserted.

"We have sent many of our employees home for a holiday until the strike ends," said Manu Ram of New Delhi Goods Carrier.

"The yen has been appreciating for a long time but its most recent gains have made Japanese think more seriously about increasing investment abroad," an international treasury division manager at a major electronics company said.

The yen hit a new closing high of 104.61 to the dollar in Tokyo Monday, trading over 15 per cent higher than its average rate in Tokyo during 1992.

Firm labour costs and sluggish sales at home are also encouraging many corporations to think about moving production units to

from under some limiting condition that has served its purpose then you can consider ways to advance in the future.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have all sorts of goals that merely need the finishing touches to be as you wish and then later life aims and desires occur which are good for you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make sure you do whatever vocational activities you have in the outside world are done with more than usual prestige and tonight new prestige will be yours.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider well how you can get more information about an advanced project but in the evening start afresh to decide future ways to get ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take some time out to handle those business interests awaiting your personal focus and then see your way clear for some improved outlets.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have an association or company matter to be carefully handled, then you will be able to find new sources by which to express your talents.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your surroundings need to be arranged so that charm and efficiency are heightened then tonight you can enjoy them in comfort and serenity.

## Foreign investment in China soars in first half of '93

PEKING (AFP) — Approved foreign investment in China hit \$58.78 billion in the first half of 1993, up 300 per cent on the same period last year.

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) spokesman Miao Fuchun said 43,632 foreign funded projects had been approved and \$9.396 billion of overseas investment had been utilised in the first six months of the year.

The figures were up 234.3 per cent and 179.8 per cent respectively over the same period last year.

"The big influx of foreign investment indicates that China, which enjoys political and social

stability and dynamic economic development, remains ideal for foreign investors," Mr. Miao said.

China has been at pains to reassure foreign investors their legitimate interests will be protected in the ongoing campaign to cool the overheated economy and that the rectification measures will not bring growth to a standstill as in 1988.

The main sources of investment were Canada, Germany, Britain, the United States, Korea, Japan, Italy, France, Taiwan and Hong Kong, he said, noting in particular that funds from Canada and Germany had jumped 12.5 and 5.2 times respectively.

The majority of new projects were concentrated in China's coastal provinces and were mainly in the industrial sector, particularly electronic and telecommunications equipment, machinery, chemicals, electrical appliances and supplies. Xinhua quoted Mr. Miao as telling a press conference.

He said other sectors like real estate, public utilities, services, commerce, catering, marketing, animal husbandry, agriculture and fisheries had also made significant gains.

Technology trade also increased, Mr. Miao said. Some 185 technology import contracts worth \$3.289 billion and 35 ex-

port contracts worth \$1.339 billion were approved in the period, he said.

Mr. Miao also said import and export volume in the first half of the year amounted to \$77.84 billion, up 13.4 per cent over the same period in 1992. Xinhua reported in a separate dispatch.

Exports were up 4.4 per cent to \$37.15 billion while imports soared 23.2 per cent to \$40.69 billion compared with the January to June period last year, for a deficit of \$3.54 billion.

Manufactured goods accounted for 80.4 per cent of total exports at \$29.89 billion, up 6.8 per cent over the period last year.

Imports from Japan accounted for the majority of China's trade deficit.

The volume of trade with Japan jumped 42.5 per cent to \$14.55 billion, with China's exports coming to \$5.91 billion and imports totalling \$8.64 billion, respective increases of 22 per cent and 60.9 per cent.

Total volume of trade with the United States amounted to \$10.77 billion, a 51.2 per cent increase.

China's exports to the United States totalled \$6.62 billion and imports \$4.14 billion respectively up 102.9 per cent and 7.4 per cent.

Industrial production could be hit as the supply of raw materials to factories is disrupted and goods pile up at railway yards and docks. The transport industry stands to lose \$30 million a day in the strike.

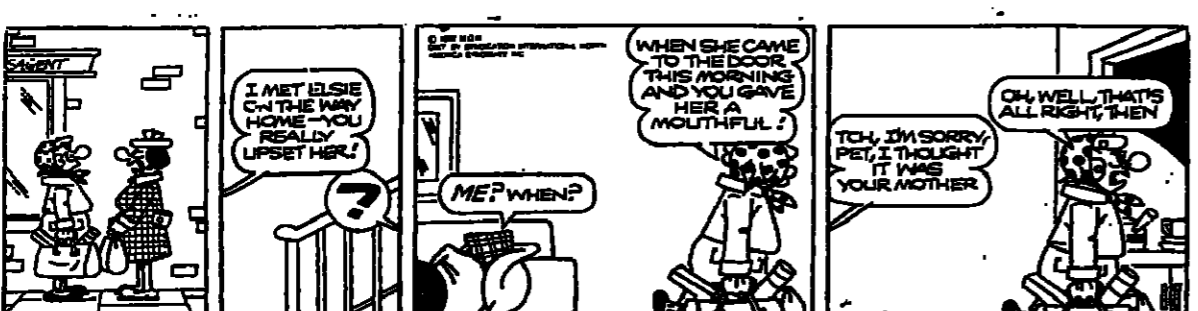
Union spokesman Singh said the inter-state taxes go against the "free flow of traffic" and the spirit of the government's pro-market reforms.

"A truck that makes three trips a month from New Delhi to Bombay could make five in the checkpoints are done away with. Just imagine the resulting increase in transport efficiency and the benefit to trade and industry," he said.

### Peanuts



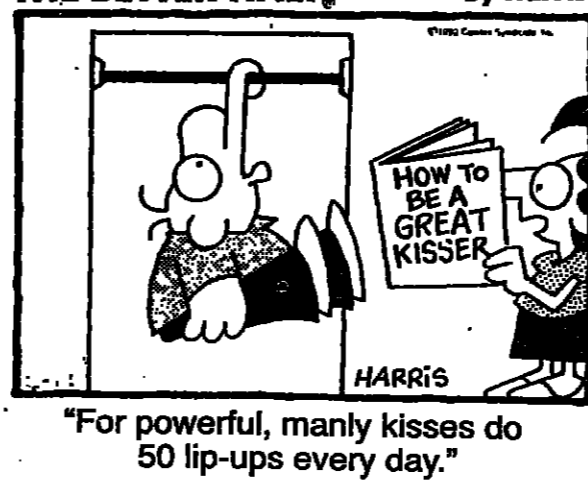
### Andy Capp



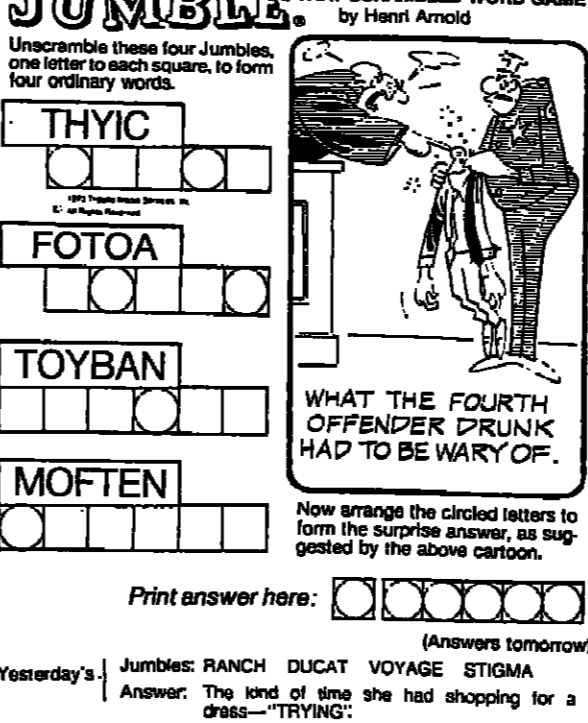
### Mutt'n'Jeff



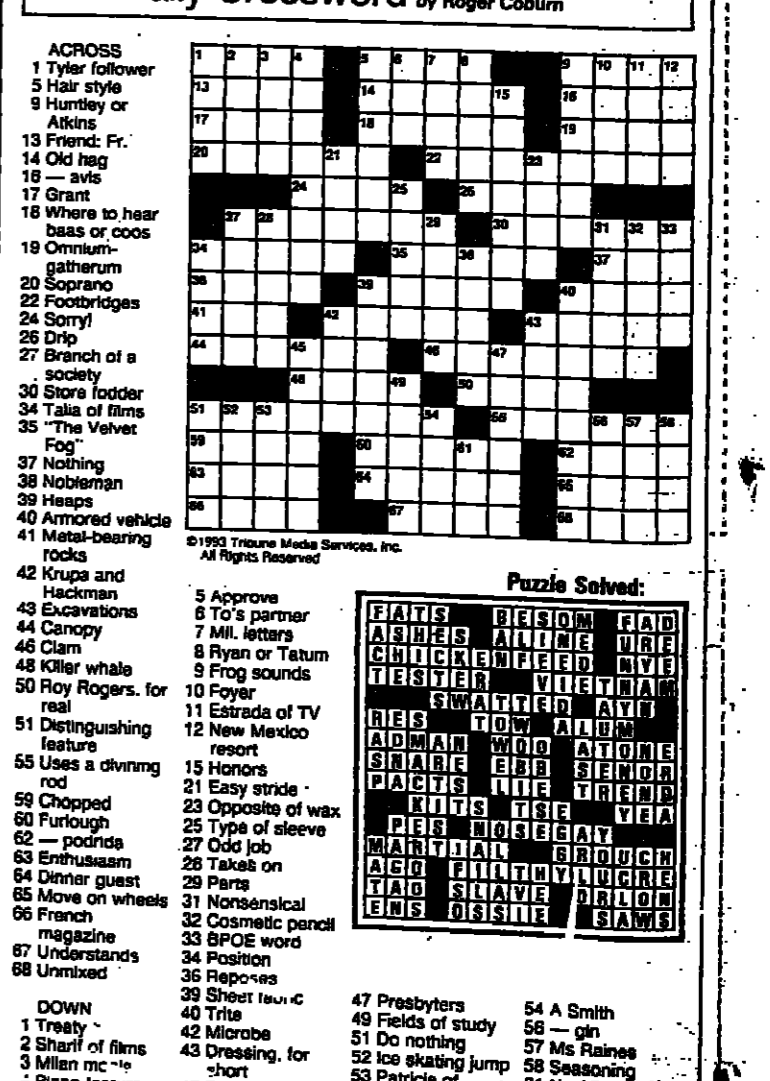
### THE BETTER HALF



### JUMBLE



### THE Daily Crossword





## Bosnian Muslims delay peace talks after U.S. strike threat

GENEVA (R) — Bosnia's Muslim leadership, clearly buoyed by a warning the United States might launch attacks on the Serbs, Monday delayed new talks on a peace agreement with its Serb and Croat foes.

International mediator Lord Owen, insisting the week-long negotiations had made good progress, left no doubt he felt the unilateral action apparently under consideration by Washington could damage hopes of an early accord.

Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic, under evident pressure from radical aides, cancelled a meeting with Lord Owen and fellow mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg set for 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) and rescheduled it for 5 p.m. (1500 GMT).

Sources close to the Bosnian presidency delegation said the aides had argued that Mr. Izetbegovic should wait until it became clear from a NATO meeting in Brussels during the day whether the U.S. threat might materialise.

Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told reporters that if there were an American attack "the talks probably would be ruined and the peace conference would be ruined. There would be disaster and chaos... and a long, long war."

Vitaly Churkin, Russia's special envoy to the talks, said news of the American threat "comes at a very bad time for the negotiations."

It had, he told Reuters, "already had a very negative effect."

"Now some people who were sitting around the table seem to be waiting for the strikes to come."

Mr. Churkin, a deputy foreign minister, said Mr. Izetbegovic had clearly come to negotiate a peace. "But some people in his delegation make no secret of the fact that they want to go back to the battlefield, and they are pulling on his coat-tails."

The U.S. warning was voiced by a spokesman for Secretary of State Warren Christopher en route from Washington to the Middle East where he aims to get stalled peace talks moving again.

The spokesman said the U.S. was "determined to act" but hopes this would be within the framework of NATO, the Western defence alliance which is preparing to provide air cover to United Nations protection forces on the ground in Bosnia.

Lord Owen said he arrived at Geneva's Palais Des Nations on the seventh day of negotiations on a peace accord all U.N. members were supposed to act within the world body's charter.

"It would be a very unusual situation, I would say a very surprising one, if the United States were to operate outside the charter on their own, but we will see," the mediator declared.

He told reporters he hoped Mr. Izetbegovic, who Sunday warned he might pull out of the talks entirely if Serb attacks near Sarajevo in northeast Bosnia were not halted, was not looking for a pretext to withdraw.

"I certainly hope the statements made by the United States are not used by him, or the fighting," Lord Owen said.

The talks have focussed in the past few days on a plan, already

accepted by all three sides, creating a "union" of three ethnic republics in Bosnia. But there is still no accord on a map delineating the three entities.

Mr. Karadzic told Reuters Television Monday the Serbs, who have seized large areas once mainly inhabited by Muslims, were being "very generous" in offering to hand land back.

His forces now held 72 per cent of the whole country and before the war broke out in April last year Serbs had owned 62 per cent of the land, he said. "Now we are ready to step down to 54 per cent," he declared.

He said he would have to leave the talks if the threat of an outside attack materialised, although he would have his delegation behind. "If there is a serious threat, I have to be with my people," the Serb chief added.

"But the whole world should see that there is absolutely no sense in this threat because we are continuing to negotiate, we are generous towards Muslims, and we don't want to take Sarajevo."

Meanwhile the flash of high explosives lit up battlefields over Bosnia in night fighting and fresh gunners kept up the shelling Monday.

After a warning barrage Sunday put the peace in Croatia "in considerable jeopardy" in the words of a senior U.N. peacekeeper, rebel Serbs made good on their threat to destroy the Maslenica pontoon bridge.

The bridge, opened just last Thursday to restore Croatia's

main coastal highway, was sinking into the sea Monday after Serb rebels in the hills shelled it in earnest just before daylight.

This was their answer to Croatia's refusal to pull troops out of the area and hand over to a U.N. buffer force of 2,000 men separating Croats from Serbs in the Krajina enclave.

So far, there has been no retaliation by Croat forces.

In Bosnia, artillery, mortars and anti-aircraft guns spewed fire all night long on the northern Brcko front, where the Muslim-led army is fighting rebel Serbs for control of a vital supply corridor, Sarajevo Radio said.

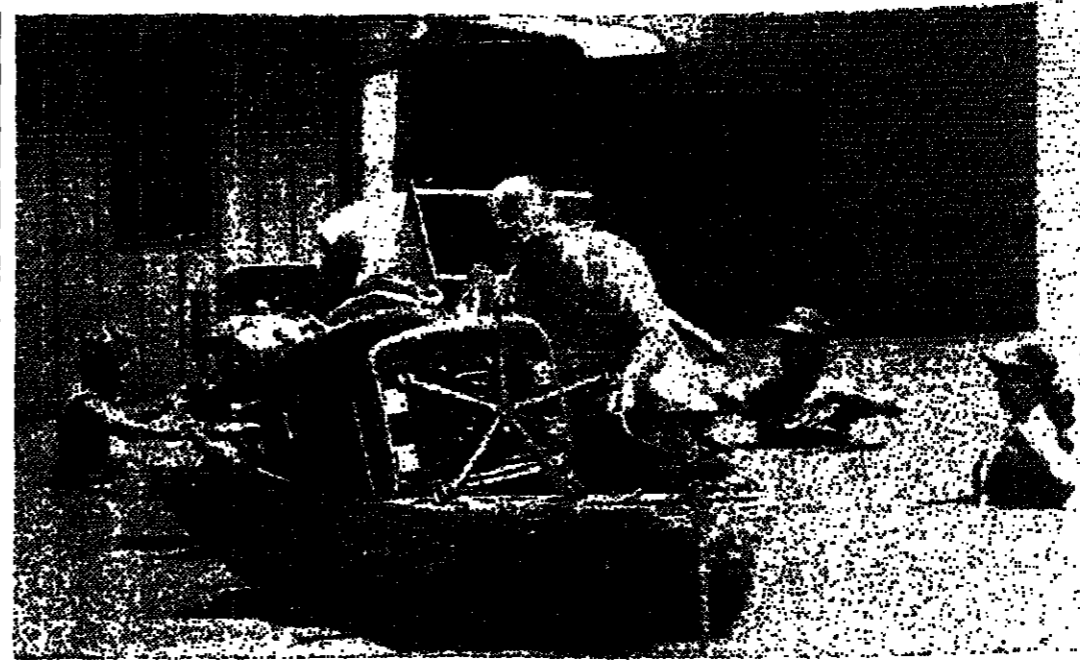
The fighting continued on into the daylight hours, it said.

Away to the southwest, Muslim-backed Croat forces in the area of Gornji Vakuf, forcing the U.N. aid operation to suspend vital food and fuel deliveries over dangerous mountain roads from the coast to the raaged Bosnian interior.

In Sarajevo, the Muslim-led government said Serb forces had launched a major offensive Sunday to capture strategic Mount Bjelasnica, a goal that would tighten their stranglehold on the surrounded capital, now in its 10th month of siege.

The government said hillside villages were burnt down and alleged that Serb forces, violating a U.N. no-fly order, used helicopters to attack a television relay mast on the summit.

Bosnian Serb army sources said they had already taken Bjelasnica, but U.N. observers could not confirm this.



Four workers Sunday evacuate office furniture at the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department office in St. Charles, Missouri (AFP photo)

## Nerves frayed, region swamped as U.S. rivers reach record highs

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Is the worst over? After inundating farmland and suburban homes and businesses, the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers teased the city's residents by reaching record highs, then dipping a tantalising foot (30 centimetres) or more.

The taunting frayed nerves in Missouri's largest metropolitan area, since experts warned that both rivers would rise Monday to even higher levels.

"The mood is like the river," said Fire Chief Neil Svetanics. "It keeps changing. It goes up and down and surges."

The waters have lashed St. Louis from all sides, overwhelming homes and businesses in the

suburbs, straining a soggy levee in the city's south end and knocking out the water supply to thousands of people just to the east in rural Illinois.

Late Sunday, the Mississippi even pulled a floating fast-food restaurant free from its moorings near the gateway arch. The Burger King restaurant, closed along with other riverfront attractions since the flooding began, took a helicopter pad and another boat with it downriver, then smashed into the interstate 55-70 bridge and broke up.

The bridge, the main link between Missouri and Illinois, was closed temporarily. Tugboats corralled the boats and tied them off

farther downriver. Forecasters estimated the river crests would collide overnight north of the city where they converge. Officials said the Mississippi would reach 49.7 feet (14.9 metres), 19.7 feet (5.9 metres) above the flood level.

The Missouri was expected to crest at 39 feet (11.7 metres) Monday afternoon, 14 feet (4.2 metres) above flood stage, said National Weather Service meteorologist Dan Ferry in St. Louis.

Even after the crest, the threat of damage won't be over. The Mississippi is expected to drop only a few inches a day.

## Kremlin envoys in Caucasus following assassination

MOSCOW (AFP) — Two senior Russian ministers met leaders Monday in the Caucasus republic of North Ossetia following the assassination of Moscow's top official supervising efforts to keep order in the region, news agencies said.

A 25-man team of special investigators from the Russian Interior Ministry led by the official responsible for combating organised crime also arrived in the capital of North Ossetia, Vladikavkaz.

The arrival of Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev came a day after the killing of Viktor Polyanchiko, the Moscow-appointed head of the provisional state-of-emergency administration in the region.

Mr. Polyanchiko and General Anatoly Korenski, commander of the Vladikavkaz garrison, along with several body guards, were slain in a hail of bullets after unidentified attackers opened fire on the car they were riding in.

Russian Television news showed footage of the car, the windows and body perforated by bullets, partially overturned and lying on a riverbank beside the road where the attack occurred.

General Yuri Shatalin, the interim successor to Mr. Polyanchiko, was quoted by ITAR-TASS News Agency as saying the assassination had heightened tensions in the region and said troops were taking measures to stabilise the situation.

More than 10,000 Russian troops have been deployed in the region since last autumn after an uprising by ethnic Ingush sparked the most violent and potentially destabilising conflict within the borders of the Russian Federation.

The Ingush were demanding that the area of Prigorodny, once Ingush territory but transferred to North Ossetia by Stalin in 1944, be returned to them.

Mr. Polyanchiko had been due Monday to name four settlements in the North Ossetia where Ingush refugees who fled the region following last autumn's violence were to be allowed to return, Interfax News Agency said.

Mr. Shakhrai and Mr. Grachev held talks with Akhsarbek Galazov, the chairman of the North Ossetian parliament, but there was no word on their outcome.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin meanwhile held talks of his own by telephone with Mr. Galazov and the president of the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia, Ruslan Aushev, Interfax said.

The two gave opposing explanations for Sunday's assassination, it added.

Mr. Chernomyrdin also chaired a discussion Monday in the cabinet of the situation in the region and Interfax said an official statement on the situation could be released later.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Honecker's condition 'worsening'

BONN (R) — Former East German leader Erich Honecker's condition is worsening seven months after his trial on manslaughter charges was halted because of his terminal liver cancer, his lawyer was quoted as saying Monday. Friedrich Wolff told the newspaper Mitteldeutscher Express that Honecker was too weak to continue writing the memoirs he began after a Berlin court released him in January. He has since lived in Chile with his wife. The 80-year-old hardline Communist ruled east Germany from 1971 until a peaceful uprising brought down the Berlin Wall in 1989 and paved the way for Germany unification the following year. "Honecker is very seriously ill... his voice sounded very weak. He himself describes his condition as very, very weak," added Wolff, who said he spoke to his client by telephone last week.

### 8 killed by avalanche on Mont Blanc

COURMAYEUR, Italy (R) — An avalanche on the Italian side of Mont Blanc early Monday killed at least eight climbers on Europe's highest mountain. A police spokesman said three of the victims were Italian, three German and two French. The Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported a further four were believed missing after the disaster on the Grandes Jorasses, a section of the Mont Blanc massif on the Italian-French border with a peak of more than 4,000 metres (13,000 feet).

### Japan, U.S. to counter N. Korean missiles

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan and the United States agreed Monday to hold talks in September to look at joint defence measures against North Korean intermediate-range missiles, capable of hitting a large part of Japan, officials said. Both sides, confirming that the Rodong-1 missile with a range of 1,000 kilometres (625 miles) was a serious threat to the whole of North East Asia, might ask nations like South Korea to join the project, they said. The agreement was reached at a meeting here between Japanese Vice Defence Minister Shigeru Hatakeyama and Frank Wisner, U.S. undersecretary of defence for policy. It was the first discussion between Tokyo and Washington on a joint defence plan to counter Pyongyang's development of the missiles, some of which were test-fired in May in the Sea of Japan, off the Noto peninsula in western Japan.

### Filipino troops hunt down rebels

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — Some 2,000 Philippine troops were hunting Monday for Muslim guerrillas and fundamentalists after an Islamic bombings left more than 20 wounded over the weekend. Brigadier General Guillermo Ruiz, military commander of Zamboanga, said his men had overrun a camp held by an estimated 400 Muslim gunmen, sending them fleeing by land and sea. "There was no direct confrontation," he said in an interview, adding that troops and police, backed by helicopter gunships and carrying light artillery, were pressing on with the hunt. But a band was still holding 14 Christians kidnapped in Basilan Saturday, threatening to kill them if the military operations continued. At least 22 people were wounded in a wave of bombings in Zamboanga and Basilan's capital town Isabela over the weekend as the gunmen warned the military against continuing with its operation. Eleven pilgrims were wounded when a bomb went off at a Roman Catholic shrine in Zamboanga late Sunday. Eleven people had also been wounded in several bombings in Isabela Saturday.

### Political crisis still grips Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Political crisis still grips Nigeria despite military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida's announcement of a "consensus arrangement" for an interim government to smooth the country's return to democracy. The plan was heavily criticised by supporters of Moshod Abiola, the man widely believed to have won a June 12 presidential election whose results the government scrapped. "There is absolutely no need for an interim government," Mr. Abiola's senior aide Femi Oredin told Reuters Sunday night. "It is part of manoeuvres to stop the country and the people from having the government they have elected." "It is totally unacceptable to us," he said. President Babangida told leaders of Nigeria's two political parties Saturday in the capital Abuja that an interim government was needed to conclude the transition process following the annulment of last month's presidential election.

### Italian lawyer killed in street

REGGIO CALABRIA, Italy (R) — A lawyer was murdered as he walked to work in the Italian city of Reggio Calabria Monday by an assassin who shot him in the head half a dozen times, police said. Witnesses said Attorney Cesare Pannuti was shot as he crossed a street near the city's main courthouse. The motive for the attack was not known. Reggio Calabria, at Italy's extreme southern tip, is a stronghold of the 'Ndrangheta, the Calabrian version of the mafia.

## K. Rouge detain U.N. troops in Thailand

PHNOM PENH (R) — The United Nations said Monday that Cambodian Khmer Rouge guerrillas had detained 21 U.N. peacekeepers at gunpoint on Thai territory and in the presence of uniformed Thai personnel.

The head of Thailand's National Security Council (NSC) flatly denied the U.N. account of the incident Sunday in which the peacekeepers were eventually freed unharmed.

"UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) officials should have tried to verify such charges before making careless statements. It is Thailand which always suffers from them," NSC chief Charan Kullavanich told reporters in Bangkok.

The U.N. said it was the first time peacekeepers had been captured by the Khmer Rouge when the guerrillas were operating inside Thai territory.

"They were held by the DK (Democratic Kampuchea or Khmer Rouge) in Thai territory. UNTAC is considering this very seriously," said U.N. spokeswoman Susan Manuel.

The peacekeepers were taken prisoner by the guerrillas after crossing into Thailand to escape a mortar barrage at their border checkpoint at CT-1 in the far north of Cambodia.

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian troops opened fire to thwart four attempts by Tajik opposition fighters to cross the border from Afghanistan into Tajikistan at the weekend, Interfax News Agency said Monday.

It said Russian border guards and regular troops of Russia's 201st Motorised Division prevented four separate attempts to breach the border illegally Sunday. There was no mention of any casualties.

A border post came under mortar fire from the Afghan side of the frontier Saturday but no one was hurt, Interfax quoted Border Guard officials as saying.

Russian forces protect Tajikistan's side of the border under an agreement with the leadership of the Central Asian state.

Tension rose sharply last month when 25 Russian Guards and 100 Tajik villagers were killed in a cross-border raid by Tajik rebels, who fled into Afghanistan in large numbers last year after being defeated in a short but bloody civil war.

Russian forces have responded by bombarding suspected Tajik rebel and Afghan Mujahideen positions on the Afghan side of the border.

A top Afghan official angrily denounced Monday a demand by Russia that civilians and refugees from Tajikistan be withdrawn from border areas that have come under rocket and artillery fire by Russian troops.

"The Russians have no right to tell our people where to live," said presidential spokesman

## Ozawa will not join new Japan cabinet

TOKYO (AFP) — Ichiro Ozawa, a former ruling party powerbroker and a key figure in a coalition due to take power in Japan this week, has turned down an offer of a cabinet post, coalition leader Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday.

Mr. Hosokawa, the populist head of the year-old Japan New Party, also told reporters he would tap non-political experts and women for some posts in a cabinet.

"I'll have to add as much colour as possible," he said of the distribution of cabinet posts to be shared by seven parties including LDP defectors, socialists and centrist forces.

But he added that "Mr. Ozawa has humbly declined" to join the cabinet.

Mr. Ozawa, a former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) secretary general, is regarded as having backroom political clout that could make or break the broad-based coalition.

His faction, also led by former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, joined an opposition non-confidence vote against Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa last month. They subsequently bolted from the governing party and formed the Shinseitō (Renewal Party), which won 55 seats in general elections two weeks ago.

Mr. Ozawa is a protégé of disgraced former LDP vice president and kingmaker Shin Kanemaru who is on trial on charges of evading taxes on huge donations he secretly collected from con-

tractors.

Some coalition partners had been reluctant to join hands with Mr. Ozawa's group because of his ties to the LDP's dark past while the 50-year-old kept a low profile in the shaping of the next government.

Meanwhile, the scandal-ridden LDP, due to lose its 38-year grip on power, appointed three new party executives after electing Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshi Kono as its president last week.

Mr. Kono picked trade minister Yoshihiro Mori as LDP secretary general and former Construction Minister Yoshiaki Kibe as head of the Executive Council, the party's top decision-making body. Former Finance Minister Taro Hashimoto becomes the head of the Policy Affairs Research Council.

Mr. Miyazawa's outgoing cabinet formally decided Monday to convene a special session of parliament Thursday to elect a new prime minister.

Mr. Hosokawa, who once served as an LDP deputy and a provincial governor, has been picked as a candidate for the premiership by the coalition, which holds more than 260 parliamentary seats against 223 for the LDP.

"I will demonstrate my leadership in a strict manner upon my election to the chief executive post," said 55-year-old Hosokawa, who is the grandson of a pre-World War II premier and is descended from a line of feudal

samurai lords.

Mr. Hata is widely expected to become deputy prime minister and finance minister in the new cabinet, which is also rumoured to include Akio Morita, chairman of the electronics giant Sony Corp., as foreign minister or trade minister.

The Social Democratic Party, meanwhile, is facing difficulties naming a speaker of the House of Representatives. The Socialist Party has been entrusted with the post as the main party within the coalition with 70 seats.

Former Socialist Party chairman Takako Doi, the only woman ever to head a major political party in Japan, has been resisting a request to become the first female lower house speaker.

"There are many members within the party who are my seniors," Mrs. Doi was quoted as saying by Social Democrat Chairman Sadao Yamahana. Mrs. Doi had led resistance to joining the coalition by left-wingers within the Socialist camp.

Meanwhile, the leader of an industrial group proposed that Japan's four major economic organisations previously strong supporters of the LDP, should form a new body to funnel donations to different parties.

"We cannot think at all about giving donations only to the LDP, which will become an opposition party," said Takeshi Nagano, president of the Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren).

## Street of the "Dolce Vita" becomes pedestrian isle

ROME (AP) — If you want to taste the "Dolce Vita" of the Via Veneto, the famous Roman street of grand hotels and chic cafes, you'll have to do it on foot. A city ordinance went into effect barring traffic from part of the tree-lined boulevard that snakes past the American embassy. The rest was to be closed Sunday night. The ordinance clogged side streets with cars and buses, but brought joy to tourists and Roman pedestrians plagued by choking car fumes and murderous traffic. Director Federico Fellini's movie "La Dolce Vita" made the avenue famous 30 years ago with its depiction of the "sweet life" of decadent Roman society. Expensive boutiques, hotels and tourist-magnet Harry's Bar remain, but it is no longer the symbol of ultimate chic and meeting place of the rich and famous. Foreign dignitaries still come, though. Mikhail Gorbachev bought \$9,000 worth of tailor-made clothing for his 1988 American visit from a Via Veneto designer.

## China police raid 'brothel village', rescue 21 women

HONG KONG (AFP) — Police have carried out a series of raids on a southern Chinese village, dubbed a "brothel village" by local press, and rescued 21 women who were forced into prostitution, a report said Monday. Police also arrested five suspects for selling, abducting and forcing women from other provinces into prostitution in brothels set up by villagers in Houtou in Lufeng county in China's booming Guangdong province, the Hong Kong China News Service report said. The illegal activity in the poor village along the southeastern coast was disclosed last month by an evening newspaper in Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong. According to Lufeng authorities, the village has been raided 35 times by police this year, and 51 women rescued from the brothels there. A total of 19 suspects have been arrested.

## Tower of Pisa leans a little less

ROME (R) — For the first time in 800 years, the leaning Tower of Pisa is straighter than it used to be. "The tower is leaning less than it used to be. It's back where it was two years ago," Michele Jamiolkowski, head of a committee supervising efforts to shore up the monument, told the Italian News Agency (ANSA). The fractional shift of two millimetres is invisible to the naked eye, but experts hailed it as a major success for the first phase of the tower's "cure", which consisted of burying a 140-tonne counterweight of lead ingots at its foot. The tower, which leans five metres off the perpendicular, has been closed to the public since 1990, although experts hope it may be reopened in 1994. By the end of this year, a total of 670 tonnes of lead will have been buried in an effort to stabilise the tower, described by experts as "bendy as an old mattress." The 56-metre white marble tower was begun in 1174 and completed in 1350. It weighs 14,000 tonnes.

## Jet hits jeep after landing

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An Air India Boeing 747 jet grazed a speeding jeep on the runway after landing in Bombay early Sunday, but all 408 passengers and crew were safe, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. The aircraft, coming in from Frankfurt via New Delhi, was moving when one of its engines struck the jeep, overturning it and injuring its two occupants, the news agency said. The vehicle, belonging to the International Airport Authority of India, was shooting across the runway when the accident occurred. The airport was shut for 40 minutes, during which half-a-dozen flights were diverted or held up. "It was lucky that the jeep did not come under the nose wheel," an Air India official said. "Otherwise, it would have led to a major disaster."

## Mammoth traffic jams clog French highways

PARIS (AFP) — Bumper-to-bumper traffic stretching as many as 70 kilometres (45 miles) snarled highways Sunday as French vacationers hit the road en masse. Competing for road space were people returning from July vacations and others setting out on their August holidays. The worst traffic jam was on the main highway heading south, between the towns of Vienne and Montellier in central France, with cars lined up for 70 kilometres (45 miles), the national traffic centre said. Another jam half that size stymied motorists near the southwest city of Bordeaux. One highway leading out of Paris was clogged with 30 kilometres (20 miles) of cars.

## Cram makes his mark

COLOGNE (AFP) — British track legend Steve Cram pulled off a last-minute gamble to put his World Championship campaign back on track Sunday.

Cram hit the mark with a last-gasp 1,500m dash after he looked certain to miss next month's championships after failing to hit the qualifying time of 3:36.50.

The 32-year-old veteran, who had looked set to move up to 5,000m racing this season, defied a nagging Achilles tendon problem to run 3:35.63 in his last qualifying effort.

And afterwards the mile world record holder warned his rivals that he could still cause a medal upset.

The British selectors now look certain to include him in the Stuttgart selection after his brave effort.

Meanwhile Briton Linford Christie, fresh from his 100m victory over American rival Carl Lewis, eased home with a 200m win over Nigeria's Kayode Oluji.

But there was no head-to-head with Andre Cason, conqueror of Lewis in the American World Championships trials, who ran in the 100m and won in 10.11 secs.

The British euphoria over Cram and Christie's performance was marred, however, by a Colin Jackson injury scare and the news that Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion Eamonn Martin had been forced to withdraw from the Stuttgart showpiece.

## Basketball world pays tribute to Reggie Lewis

BOSTON (AP) — "Reggie, we'll always love you".

The large red sign, with white lettering, crowns the doors leading into the college arena at which family, fans and the basketball world paid tribute to Reggie Lewis Monday.

Black bunting covers the Northeastern University crest on the outside of Matthews Arena, where Lewis starred for four years before going on to the Boston Celtics.

Northeastern officials spent the weekend fitting as many chairs as possible into the 83-year-old facility, but still expected an overflow crowd.

Lewis, 27, died Tuesday of cardiac arrest while shooting baskets at Brandeis University, three months after he collapsed in a playoff game against Charlotte.

He got differing diagnoses, with some doctors saying he had a dangerous heart ailment and others saying he had a minor nerve disorder and "a normal athlete's heart."

His death came one week before Lewis was scheduled to go to his hometown of Baltimore to begin workouts supervised by a cardiologist.

Lewis' casket was to lie beneath a banner representing his retired Northeastern jersey.

## Pernfors surprised by upset victory

MONTREAL (AP) — Mikael Pernfors of Sweden was incredulous after his dramatic three-set victory over Todd Martin in Sunday's final of the 1.65 million Canadian (\$1.28 million) Canadian Open Tennis tournament.

Pernfors, 30, a former top-10 player who lapsed into obscurity after suffering achilles tendon problems, outworked the hard-hitting Martin for a 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory on the hardcourts at Jarry Stadium.

"I knew I could play good tennis again but I didn't know I could play this good," Pernfors said after winning his first final since 1988 in Scottsdale, Ariz. "A lot of people had written me off. For me, it's the greatest week of tennis I've ever had."

Pernfors, the lowest-ranked Canadian Open champion ever at No. 95, collected 235,000 Canadian dollars (\$183,000) and will move into the world's top 40 with the victory.

Martin, 22, one of the sport's rising stars, picked up 123,000 Canadian dollars (\$96,000). Martin had also lost a final last week in Washington.

In the doubles final, the centre court crowd was disappointed as Jim Courier of the United States and Mark Knowles of the Bahamas downed Toronto's Glenn Michibata and American David Fane 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

Michibata was bidding to become the first Canadian doubles champion at the Canadian Open since the event went professional in 1969.

Pernfors, who beat No. 2 seed Courier and three other seeded players en route to the final, kept Martin off balance with high topspin shots mixed with clever lobs and drop shots.

As he had done all week, Pernfors worked harder and drew unforced errors from a seemingly superior opponent. Martin made 39 while Pernfors had only 17.

Pernfors was a top-10 player when he reached the French Open final in 1986. But after three good years, his achilles tendon troubles began. He underwent surgery in 1990 and by the following year, he had dropped to No. 1,001 in the world.

He started this year at No. 237 and worked his way up through satellite circuit events until this week, when he gained entry to a tournament without having to go through a qualifying tournament for the first time in

years.

Garrison-Jackson

In station Mountain, Vermont top-seeded Conchita Martinez overcame a host of physical ailments to win the U.S. Women's Hard Court Championships Sunday with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over an outmatched Zina Garrison-Jackson.

Martinez, ranked sixth on the WTA Kraft tour, didn't lose a set all week and dropped just 18 games in five matches. It was her fourth singles title of the year and 18th of her career.

"I wasn't supposed to come here, but now I'm happy I came," said the 21-year-old Spaniard, a late addition to the first-year tournament.

Martinez, 5-0 lifetime against Garrison-Jackson, had muscle spasms in her left shoulder that required a trainer's attention in the second set. After a massage, Martinez won six of the last seven games to close out the match in just over one hour.

"It was very bad, I felt like I couldn't hold my shoulder up," she said.

Garrison-Jackson said the delay bothered her, but that her missed volleys and Martinez's passing shots were more damaging.

"With Conchita, you have to get all the points you can. You have to stay on her and I didn't," Garrison-Jackson said.

Martinez, who advanced to the final with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over fourth-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, dominated Garrison-Jackson in every aspect, using powerful topspin volleys to keep her on the defensive.

Garrison-Jackson, who held twice in nine service games, said she tried to go for too much on her second serve, and it cost her.

"I knew from the past that I had to go for more. It's a chance I had to take," she said.

Martinez's dominance of the tournament surprised even her. She only decided to enter the competition four days before it started and had to fly from Europe. After arriving, she caught a virus.

"The first day, I wouldn't have thought I could win," she said. "I was really scared about how I was feeling on the court."

Martinez, who has her highest world ranking, said she feels good about her chances in the U.S.

Open later this month. Last year, she lost in the first round.

Martinez said she had been doing more physical training this year, and has more self-confidence.

Harvey-Wild wins Puerto Rico Open

Linda Harvey-Wild rallied behind a strong service to get past Ann Grossman in the finals Sunday of the \$150,000 Puerto Rico Open Women's Tennis championship.

The 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 win gave Harvey-Wild her first title this year and the third of her career.

Harvey-Wild, the tournament's seventh seed and the 88th-ranked player in the world, served up six aces and used her strong baseline shots to down the second-seeded Grossman, who was playing in her third match in less than 24 hours.

Grossman and Debbie Graham played a semifinal match Saturday and then teamed up to take the doubles championship over Gigi Fernandez and Rennae Stubbs Saturday night.

Harvey-Wild was pleased with her performance.

"This is a very satisfying win," said the American. "The U.S. Open is right around the corner and this win may be what I need to get my game back to its proper place."

Due to inconsistency this year, Harvey-Wild's ranking has ranged from 39 to 88.

ATP RANKINGS

1. Pete Sampras (USA) 4197 pts
2. Jim Courier (USA) 3845
3. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 3230
4. Boris Becker (Germany) 2786
5. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 2531
6. Michael Stich (Germany) 2325
7. Ivan Lendl (USA) 2103
8. Petr Korda (Czech) 1938
9. Michael Chang (USA) 1914
10. Richard Krajicek (Neth) 1888
11. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 1856
12. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 1783
13. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1565
14. Todd Martin (USA) 1526
15. Karel Novacek (Czech) 1452

## Magic wants to play second half of NBA season

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Magic Johnson said Sunday if given the chance he would play the second half of the upcoming NBA season for the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I would come back for a half season, but I don't want to play a full season," Johnson told KMPC Radio. "I am not going to give up my world tour. I'm going to make too much money on it."

Johnson, 33, spoke before his annual charity game, "A Mid-Summer Night's Magic," Sunday night at the Forum. The All-Star game has raised more than \$7.5 million in seven years to benefit the United Negro College Fund.

Johnson played 28 minutes with 10 points and 13 assists. After the game, he clarified his earlier comments.

"I haven't talked to Jerry West yet, but the door has always been open. As long as I can play there's nothing really holding me back."

Johnson has said his ambition is to own an NBA team, and he is part of a group trying to win an expansion franchise for Toronto. Should he return to the Lakers, he would have to give up his ownership bid because league rules bar an owner from playing.

Johnson first retired Nov. 7, 1991, after disclosing he was infected with the AIDS virus. After helping the United States win a gold medal at the 1992 Olympics last summer, he said he would play part of the 1992-93 season.

However, less than a week before the season started, Johnson announced his retirement, "this time for good."

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## World Cup qualifiers Brazil score first victory

SAN CRISTOBAL, Venezuela (AP) — Brazil finally got its first victory in 1994 World Cup qualifying, routing Venezuela 5-1 Sunday behind two goals by Bebeto and one each by Rai, Branco and Palinha.

The three-time World Cup champion had played a scoreless tie against Ecuador and lost 2-0 last week at Bolivia, its first loss ever in 32 World Cup qualifying games.

Venezuela, a soccer lightweight in South America, was outscored 18-1 in qualifying games for the 1990 World Cup.

"We had opportunities to make goals that were not so much due to the merit of Brazil, but to the deficiency of Venezuela," former Brazil great Pele said. "To say it plainly, Brazil is playing badly."

Brazil (1-1-1) is tied for second in Group B with Uruguay (1-0-1), which played a scoreless tie Sunday against Ecuador (0-0-2). Bolivia (2-0) is first while Venezuela (0-3) is last. The top two teams qualify for the 24-nation tournament in the United States.

In the opening games of Group A, Argentina beat Peru 1-0 on Gabriel Batistuta's goal in the 28th minute, and Colombia and Paraguay played a scoreless tie.

The top team qualifies from Group A and the second-place nation plays a home-and-home series against Australia or Canada. Canada won 2-1 Saturday, and the teams play the second leg at Sydney on Aug. 15.

Brazil 5, Venezuela 1

At San Cristobal, Venezuela, Rai put Brazil ahead with a penalty kick in the 34th minute after Miguel Echenausi was ejected for using his hands to block Dunga's shot.

Bebeto, who led the Spanish League in scoring last season,

split the defence 62nd minute for his first goal, and Branco made it 3-0 in the 64th.

Bebeto scored his second goal in the 77th minute, trapping a long pass with his chest and, without the ball touching the ground, kicking it past goalkeeper Jose Gomez. Juan Garcia scored Venezuela's goal with six minutes remaining, and Palinha scored in two minutes into extra time.

Uruguay 0, Ecuador 0

At Montevideo, neither team had good chances in the lackluster game. The closest any team came to a goal was in the fifth minute, when Ecuador's Eduardo Hurtado hit the crossbar.

Argentina 1, Peru 0

At Lima, Argentina began qualifying with a victory. It won the 1986 World Cup and lost the 1990 final 1-0 to Germany.

Colombia 0, Paraguay 0

At Barranquilla, Faustino Asprilla missed a first-half penalty kick for Colombia, which was eliminated by Cameroon in the second round of the 1990 World Cup.

Parreira's job safe, says Brazil soccer chief

Brazil soccer chief Ricardo Teixeira said Sunday that national team trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira would keep his job following a 5-1 World Cup qualifying win over Venezuela.

"For me it was a convincing performance," said Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF).

Asked if he was contemplating a change of trainer, Teixeira replied "that (possibility) doesn't exist."

Speculation had been rife over the future of Parreira after Brazil lost 2-0 to Bolivia in another

qualifying game one week ago. Commentators said he could face the sack if Brazil did not perform well against Venezuela, even if they won.

Parreira himself said: "I like the result more than the performance. But now we have got 15 days to train before our next game and I'm sure we will improve."

"The result gave us confidence, that's what's important, and now we can work with more tranquility."

Canada won't change style in Australia

Overwhelmed by the largest home crowd to see a Canadian national team game, Mike Sweeney says he and his teammates have to remain focused and not concern themselves with the fans when they travel to Australia.

"The way we play on the road, we do not change our style, we simply play the same way," said Sweeney, Canada's most experienced international with 60 caps.

"We've played well on the road through all our qualifying matches, we've scored goals on the road — we simply have to go in and play tight defence."

Canada beat Australia 2-1 before 27,775 at Commonwealth Stadium Saturday, giving it the edge when it goes to Sydney Aug. 15 for the return match in their two-leg playoff.

The winner advances to a two-match playoff with the second team in South American Group A, with the winner of that qualifying for the World Cup.

But Australia is not in a bad position, having gotten an away goal.

## Golden ambition in the fast lane

SHEFFIELD (R) — Franziska Van Almsick and Kristina Egerszegi, teenage prodigies born in the old Communist world, give a golden glint to the European Swimming Championships this week.

They each have four individual titles in their rights and former East German Van Almsick could line up three more in relays.

Van Almsick, too young to compete at the last European Championships in Athens in 1991, scooped four medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics at just 14 years of age.

Egerszegi, magnificent in an outstanding Hungarian squad, became an Olympic champion at 14 at the 1988 Seoul Games and won three titles in Barcelona four years later.

The two do not clash directly in the six-day swimming programme, which begins Tuesday with both in Action, and it is hard to say which will emerge as queen of the ponds for good.

Van Almsick, wooed by sponsors and marketing executives, has adopted the higher profile since Barcelona, both out of the pool and in it as star of the northern winter world cup circuit.

She has shattered records from Germany to China, setting world short-course marks for 50, 100 and 200 metres freestyle and will be tough to beat in those events and the 100 metres butterfly in Sheffield.

Egerszegi, now 19 and already five years at the top, has less to prove after collecting four Olympic golds, two world championship titles and a European championship treble in Athens in 1991.

A supreme stylist, she produced unforgettable performances in Athens when she broke



An uncommon view of swimmers training for the European Swimming Championship at the Ponds-forge swimming pool in Sheffield (AFP photo)

world records in the 100 and 200 metres backstroke which had stood for seven and five years respectively.

She proved her versatility by additionally winning the 400 metres individual medley and achieved the same triple at the Barcelona Olympics.

Now she aims to extend her supremacy by adding a fourth crown in the 200 metres butterfly.

She planned to attack the same four events at the last European Championships but in the end jettisoned the butterfly to concentrate on her triumphant assault on the 200 backstroke world mark.

The first swimming gold, the women's 100 metres freestyle,

looks destined for Van Almsick, by far the fastest European in the event this year.

Egerszegi should collect her first title in the same session in the 400 individual medley.

Van Almsick, who won four individual events at the German Championships in Potsdam in

June, is likely to find team mate Simone Oszgy, defending 50 freestyle champion, her closest challenger in the freestyle races, while Inge De Bruijn of the Netherlands and title-holder Catherine Plewinski of France are her chief rivals in the 100 butterfly.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH ©1992 Tribune Media Service, Inc.

### RUBBER BRIDGE OR DUPLICATE?

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ A K 2  
♥ 8  
♦ A 6 4 3 2  
♣ A 6 3

WEST  
♠ 10 7 4 3  
♥ A 7 5 2  
♦ 10  
♣ 10 9

EAST  
♠ J 8 5  
♥ 9 6 4 3  
♦ J 8 7 5  
♣ K J

SOUTH  
♠ Q 9 10  
♥ K 3 10  
♦ K 9  
♣ 8 7 5 4 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

The play of this hand seems routine. Follow it, then decide whether declarer's performance was from a duplicate pair event or a strong rubber-bridge game, and why.

North had a rebid problem. Suit quality was poor for a jump rebid of three diamonds, but without a known heart stopper in either hand, no alternative was attractive. South, who held a maximum one-no-trump response and suitable holdings in

the other suits, had an easy conversion to three no trump.

West led a low heart, taken by the ten. Declarer cashed the king and ace of diamonds to learn of the bad break. Since there was no other way to nine tricks outside of diamonds, declarer conceded a diamond to East and hoped that hearts were blocked. The defenders made sure that did not happen—down one.

Have you decided what form of bridge was being played?

Of course, this had to be played in a duplicate game. Chances are the diamond suit would break 3-2, and the contract would be in danger only if East held four diamonds. In rubber bridge, there's a neat avoidance play available to protect against even that 4-1 distribution as long as West's singleton is either the jack or ten. But it gives up a trick, which you cannot afford in a pair contest.

At rubber bridge, after winning the ten of hearts you should cross to the table with the king of spades and lead a diamond. If East follows low, insert the nine. West is welcome to the trick, but now the rest of the suit can be brought in and, since the king of hearts is safe from attack, declarer will score at least three spade tricks, one heart, one club and five diamonds.

## Mansell wins Indycar race

BROOKLYN (AFP) — Nigel Mansell regained the IndyCar season lead Sunday by winning the Michigan 500 in an exhausting performance that brought the British driver his first superspeedway triumph.

"I've never felt so rough," Mansell said. "I'm bushed, I'm tired."

Mansell led 222 of 250 laps at the two-mile (3.2-kilometre) oval to outlast runner-up Mario Andretti. Mansell's partner on the Carl Haas-Paul Newman race team. Both owners watched from the pit area as Mansell led the final 167 laps.

Mansell averaged 302.875 kilometres per hour, just under

all-time 500-mile mark of 305.327 kph set three years ago at Michigan International Speedway by Al Unser Jr. Mansell's winning margin over Andretti was 9.434 seconds.

# U.K. ratifies Maastricht

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain ratified the Maastricht treaty on closer European union Monday within hours of a private legal challenge being withdrawn, the Foreign Office announced.

The British ambassador to Italy, Sir Patrick Fairweather, deposited Britain's instrument of ratification at Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Foreign Office statement said.

Ratification takes place in the Italian capital because that is where the Treaty of Rome, setting up the European Community (EC), was signed in 1957.

Britain was the last country to ratify the treaty, which provides for close cooperation on foreign policy and defence matters among members of the 12-nation EC. The treaty also envisages a single currency by 1999, but that now seems unlikely.

The ratification process was bogged down in parliament for months, involved more than 200 hours of debate in the House of Commons and split the governing Conservative Party.

Prime Minister John Major finally pushed a ratification bill through the House of Commons on July 23 by threatening to call a general election unless anti-treaty rebels supported him.

The last obstacle to ratification vanished Monday morning when a former editor of the Times, Lord Rees-Mogg, decided not to pursue a legal challenge in the appeal court.

His lawyers said Lord Rees-Mogg thought the treaty less threatening to Britain's sovereignty since the weekend fundering of

the community's exchange rate mechanism. That linked the major currencies and was precursor to a single currency.

The crisis arose because other currencies could not keep pace with the German mark.

The only block now to the implementing of the treaty is a legal challenge in Germany. The court ruling is expected in September.

The decision to loosen the bonds of the community's currency grid prompted confusion in London, where political debate has been soured and dominated for a year by rows over the treaty.

Conservative Party rebels, who exploited Mr. Major's slim parliamentary majority to delay ratification, made clear they would maintain their opposition to any closer European integration, threatening further political trouble for Major.

Bill Cash, a spokesman for the rebels, said the ratification process should stop.

"As a result of what has now happened, Britain does not have to ratify it and as far as I am concerned they should refuse to ratify it," he said.

Mr. Major, who never hid his opposition to the idea of a single European currency and was proud of his opt-out of the Maastricht timetable to create one, felt himself vindicated.

"We have always made clear that we did not believe the timetable for European Monetary Union (EMU) set out in the Maastricht Treaty was right or practicable," he said in a statement.

"The EMU timetable looks totally unrealistic now," he said.



TAKING TIME OFF: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah aboard a yacht on a cruise in the Red Sea on Monday (AFP photo)

## Demjanjuk may not be retried

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two newspapers reported Monday it was unlikely that John Demjanjuk would be tried again since Israeli courts had evidence to convict him of Nazi war crimes.

The reports came a day after the supreme court unexpectedly issued a restraining order delaying Demjanjuk's deportation from Israel for 10 days. The justice ministry had no immediate comment.

The court ruled on an appeal against Demjanjuk's being freed after he was acquitted last week of being a brutal Nazi guard at the Treblinka camp in World War II Poland. Israel's attorney general was asked to explain whether Demjanjuk should be tried for

other war crimes.

The surprise delay came within hours of Demjanjuk's planned departure Sunday for Kiev in his native Ukraine. Demjanjuk was upset by the ruling and jailers gave him a tranquilizer in his solitary confinement cell at Ayalon prison near Tel Aviv.

"The roller coaster ride we've been living on for so many years now just seemed to continue," Demjanjuk's son, John Jr., told the Associated Press.

But the postponement also inspired hopes his father could fly from Israel back to the United States where his family lives, instead of to Ukraine, John Jr. said.

Demjanjuk was stripped of

U.S. citizenship in 1981 for lying about his Nazi past when he immigrated. But the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati was expected to consider a petition Tuesday on whether to allow him back in on parole.

In acquitting Demjanjuk on Thursday, a higher ranking supreme court panel found there was evidence Demjanjuk was a guard at another Nazi camp, Sobibor, but said it was not reasonable to put him on trial again.

The most solid evidence linking Demjanjuk to Sobibor is his "trawmiki" card, a card issued at an SS training camp for guards, which says he was transferred to Sobibor.

## Tutu seeks foreign help to end violence

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu Monday called for foreign peacekeepers in South Africa as the body count from one of the bloodiest weekends of the transition from apartheid to democracy neared 100.

Police spokeswoman Janine Smith said 89 people were killed between Friday night and Monday morning in factional fighting raging through the Johannesburg satellite black townships of Tembisa, Tokoza, Kaitshong and Vosloorus.

Police in Natal province said six were killed there over the weekend as the death toll in the month since democracy negotiations named April 27 as the date for the first non-racial election soared to almost 600.

Bishop Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, said the slaughter "demonstrated beyond doubt" that South Africans were incapable of restoring law and order themselves.

"We need to appeal to the international community to send in, as a matter of extreme urgency, a corps of police officers experienced in handling civil turmoil," he added.

Negotiators at black-white democracy talks at Johannesburg's World Trade Centre expressed horror at the slaughter which threatens to wreck progress to democracy after 350 years of white domination.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) urged

the conference to agree to formation of a joint peacekeeping force representative of black and white South African political formations.

"We should have a joint peacekeeping force to be installed within a matter of weeks," said ANC chief negotiator Cyril Ramaphosa.

Mr. Ramaphosa told Reuters the ANC wanted to discuss Bishop Tutu's plan with him. The more radical Pan Africanist Congress said it had been advocating international involvement for a long time.

President Frederik de Klerk and Mr. Ramaphosa paid separate visits to survivors in Tembisa hospital.

President De Klerk said the latest surge in political violence would not delay the country's first multiracial election.

"If we allow (violence) to stop us making progress, will be giving a veto to a very small, vociferous minority," Mr. De Klerk said Sunday night in a television interview.

Fighting also erupted in Tokoza southeast of here, where violence has flared repeatedly since ANC and in the Zulu Inkathu Freedom Party (IFP) supporters traded gunfire outside the township's hotel, an IFP stronghold, on May 22.

Police said ANC youths had again attacked the township's hotel Sunday, triggering Zulu retaliation.

## Belgium's choice of Albert as king seen playing safe

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Belgium's Prince Albert of Liege will succeed his late brother, King Baudouin, because Prince Albert's son Philippe has not yet been fully groomed for the monarchy of this linguistically divided country, political analysts say.

Prince Albert, 59, who was next in line to the throne, surprised the nation on Sunday by accepting the government's offer to take the throne. Many Belgians had expected him to stand aside in favour of Prince Philippe, 33, a bachelor with as yet limited political and economic experience.

King Baudouin, who had no children, died aged 62 of a heart attack Saturday while holidaying in Spain.

The analysts, recalling that King Baudouin had played a major unifying role during his 42-year reign, felt Prince Philippe had not yet acquired the political muscle to rule a country split between Dutch-speaking Flemings and French-speaking Walloons.

Miss Farhat, who was left for dead, survived to tell her story. She says that the family, resident in Kuwait for 30 years, had actually joined the Kuwaiti resistance against the Iraqis.

The Farhat case is described by international and American human rights groups and lawyers as a litmus test for not only Kuwait's disposition to try some of its own citizens for atrocities but also Washington's position on respect for human rights and justice when it comes to its allies.

"His insufficient preparation made Prince Philippe too vulnerable," Mr. De Klerk added. "It was a matter of the highest importance because the survival of the monarchy and of federal Belgium were at stake."

Some commentators said Prince Albert's quick acceptance might have been aimed at taking some pressure off the Belgian franc, a constituent of the European Community's exchange rate mechanism, which has been hit hard by speculators over the past week.

Belgians were preparing Monday to bury the king, as more than a month of national mourning was declared.

The body of the king, who died Saturday evening following a heart attack at his holiday residence in Mottel, southern Spain, arrived at Brussels military airport late Sunday.

The king's widow Spanish-born Queen Fabiola, and Prince Albert flew back here with the body.

The government announced that the public would be able to visit the body lying in state at the palace on Thursday and Friday and that the funeral would take place next Saturday.

King Baudouin was a staunch Catholic and had sparked a constitutional crisis in April 1990 when he refused to sign a law legalizing abortion. He effectively abdicated for a day as it went through.

A period of national mourning until Sept. 7, the day King Baudouin would have been 63, was also decreed.

## Victim of Kuwaiti wrath sees cover-up of her case

BY P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Lebanese woman who went back to Kuwait seeking justice for atrocities she says she suffered at Kuwaiti hands immediately after the liberation of the emirate in 1992 has accused the Kuwaiti authorities of trying to cover up for some of its officials in the affair.

Naimat Farhat, 35, who says she was raped and shot in the head by a Kuwaiti intelligence agent on March 2, 1992, went back to the emirate last month and positively identified the suspect in a court line-up.

Miss Farhat, who was left for dead by the assailant who also killed her father and brother at their residence in Kuwait in what appeared to be part of the vengeful rampage that the Kuwaitis went on after liberation from a seven-month Iraqi occupation, is back with her brother Naim Farhat in San Jose, California, after the court appearance.

Nothing has been reported after Miss Farhat's court appearance as the trial is held behind closed doors.

Miss Naimat, who is partially paralysed and needs constant medical support, to insist that the lone suspect the Kuwaiti authorities produced

in court is only part of the "group" that ordered the brutal treatment netted out to her family and herself.

"There are at least two other senior Kuwaiti officials involved in the affair," said Naim Farhat. "They were the ones who ordered the whole thing."

Mr. Farhat, talking to the Jordan Times on the phone, said neither he or his sister knew the identities of the two others, but "it is clear that the Kuwaiti authorities are trying to shirk the official responsibility for the brutality that my father, brother and sister suffered" by singling out one suspect.

"There are witnesses in Kuwait who are willing to testify in court to support and substantiate our argument, but they have to be assured of protection against persecution," said Mr. Farhat, who is also appealing to the people of Kuwait to come forward and provide whatever information they have.

In a lengthy statement he sent to the Jordan Times, Mr. Farhat said the Kuwaiti government reneged on its promise to provide air passage for Miss Farhat, her doctor and lawyers as well as himself.

"We returned the one ticket and the \$1,000 that came with

it, and I paid \$12,000 of my own funds to pay for the trip," he said, emphasizing that the Kuwaiti authorities hinted that they had paid all expenses for Miss Naimat's trip to Kuwait last month.

The suspect, named as Jaber Abdullah Al Motairi Al Omairi, was identified by Miss Farhat in photographs sent to San Jose by the Kuwaiti authorities a few months ago.

The man, said to be a former official attached to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, was said to have been involved in a car accident and to use crutches.

The defence argument, according to reports from Kuwait when the court opened the case, is that the man had suffered the accident at least one week before the date that Miss Farhat says she was raped and shot and her father and brother killed. As such, the defence says, he could not have been involved in the attack.

Mr. Farhat accused the Kuwaiti authorities of waging a psychological warfare "on Miss Farhat."

He said Miss Farhat and the team accompanying her to Kuwait were put up at a hotel overlooking a graveyard. "This had a very depressing effect on my sister and others," Mr. Farhat said. "Our rooms were

bugged and the press did not have access to us as was promised earlier."

He said the authorities deliberately planted a man on crutches with features similar to the suspect in the hotel elevator that Miss Farhat was taking on her way to the court in Kuwait.

This, he said, appeared to be aimed at intimidating Miss Farhat since she was reminded of the actual assailant and also confusing her memory.

The same man was also put on a court line-up which did not include the actual suspect, and Miss Farhat identified the man as her assailant because his features were very much like the suspect and were further "burned into her memory."

This was the reason Miss Farhat identified this man as her assailant during the first line-up, but when the actual suspect was produced in the second line-up she corrected herself and identified him with no hesitation, Mr. Farhat said.

"If I don't get my rights in this court, I will get my rights in the hereafter," Miss Farhat reportedly told the court after identifying the man.

"From tickets to eavesdropping to elevator games, a discernable pattern of manipulation, avoidance and deception

has been characteristic of Kuwaiti government behaviour," Mr. Farhat charged.

"The Kuwaiti government's lack of respect and manipulations in dealing with our case reveal most clearly the uncaring, irresponsible, duplicitous government which returned to Kuwait after the war and remains in place today," he said.

The Kuwaiti government has not made any public comment on the affair, which refused to die away against the backdrop of the relentless efforts by her never-say-die brother.

Reports suggest that Kuwaitis suspected the Farhat family of collaborating with the Iraqis during their occupation of the emirate and hence the rape and execution of the two men.

Miss Farhat, who was left for dead, survived to tell her story. She says that the family, resident in Kuwait for 30 years, had actually joined the Kuwaiti resistance against the Iraqis.

The Farhat case is described by international and American human rights groups and lawyers as a litmus test for not only Kuwait's disposition to try some of its own citizens for atrocities but also Washington's position on respect for human rights and justice when it comes to its allies.

## Palestinians may be net losers in Israeli blitz on Hizbollah

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — What appears to be a devastating defeat of anti-Israeli guerrilla groups in the seven-day Israeli bombardment of South Lebanon last week may have weakened the Tunis-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as well as Palestinian opposition parties based in Damascus, Palestinian observers in Tunis and Damascus say.

For the PLO, which is trying to get something worthwhile out of the 21-month-old Middle East peace process to salvage its political position, Israel's war against Lebanon represented a double blow.

The Israeli blitz on South Lebanon is likely to overshadow and possibly sideline, for a while at least, the Palestinian-Israeli track in the peace talks during the imminent visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region, Tunis-based Palestinian officials say.

Although the pro-peace talks PLO factions and leadership have not been on the best terms with Hizbollah, the main target of the Israeli attacks, the Shi'ite group was seen as a pressure valve against the Jewish state and thus a bargaining chip for the PLO and the negotiating team in their talks with the Israelis.

"The Syrians were known to be using Hizbollah as a pressure group against Israel. The

Palestinians too were happy to have the intifada on the inside and the guerrillas in South Lebanon on the outside waging a dual war against the Israelis," said an Amman-based advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team. "It was thought to be a sort of bargaining chip that kept the Israelis aware that war was like when compared to peace," added the advisor, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But Hizbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), whose combined killing of eight Israeli soldiers this summer sparked the Israeli attacks, may now be forced to put an end to their guerrilla war against Israel.

The reduced military clout if not elimination of the two groups means a bargaining chip lost to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Palestinian observers say.

"This is it. They are forcing all Arabs to capitulate," said a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the 10 Palestinian parties based in Damascus which oppose peace talks with Israel.

The Amman-based Palestinian advisor said cynically: "This will not be a step back for the peace talks at all. It will accelerate the process because one of the two outstanding issues with Syria was the military attacks against Israel from South Lebanon and an agree-

ment on the Golan. Now one of the two is eliminated and so we are moving on with the so-called peace process."

The PFLP and other ten Palestinian groups based in Damascus as well as the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas are all allied with Hizbollah, which also opposes the peace talks.

While Hizbollah has consistently received military and financial aid from Tehran, its main patron, through Damascus, Palestinian observers are almost unanimous in their belief that Damascus condoned the attacks against Hizbollah.

"Hizbollah was a bargaining chip for the Syrians. Damascus used Hizbollah as such. Had Damascus been genuine in its support for the group it would have done more than making whimpering statements during the last 10 days," said an emboldened Tunis-based PLO official on condition of anonymity during a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

According to Tunis-based PLO officials, Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups were told by the Syrian army 10 days before Israel began its military operation against Lebanon that by August they would have to leave South Lebanon.

PLO officials have claimed that Damascus was using both Hizbollah and the Palestinian groups in Damascus as bargaining chips which could be turned in one by one to "Israel

and the Americans."

"Every time the Israelis ask for Syrian concessions in return for Israeli concessions, the Syrians can hand someone over to the Israelis, since the pawns are Lebanese and Palestinians, there will be no internal Syrian revolt," added the PLO official from Tunis.

Provided that this is true, only one group, the PFLP, could corroborate this claim. "We know that the Palestinians groups in Damascus are living on borrowed time," said the Amman-based PFLP spokesman.

Many of the Palestinian groups in Damascus are said to be worried about their fate if Damascus does turn against them. The 10 parties and groups based in Damascus have nowhere else to go with the possible exception of Yemen, Iran or maybe Sudan. No other country is likely to accept them.

The allegations against Damascus are serious. The feud between Mr. Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has cooled off somewhat, the mistrust and dislike remain. The Palestinians believe that the U.S.-Israeli coalition hopes to "make a deal" with Syria which would entail a demilitarisation of South Lebanon and Sinai-like deal over the Golan Heights. Such a deal, the Palestinians fear, is an Israeli-U.S. goal and Syria would accept it as a face-saving arrangement.

Meanwhile the Palestinian-Israeli track in the peace process would be put on the back-burner with proposals and counter-proposals about points of reference, terminology and the extent of self-government being passed back and forth by Palestinian delegates and Egyptian diplomats.

Once Syria and, by implication, Lebanon, would reach an "acceptable" peace with Israel, the Palestinians would stand alone as the "obstacles to peace" and would be left to accept what was offered them or withdraw and allow the others to make a separate peace agreement with the Israelis, say Palestinian analysts.

They see last week's Israeli assault on Lebanon as another catastrophe for the Palestinians that weakens an already toothless tiger — the PLO — and could be a back-breaking exercise for the opposition groups which are likely to find their next exile even further from the shores of Palestine.

However, not all Palestinians are quite so pessimistic. Palestinian fighters based in South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley in particular say Israel's tactic to shell civilian targets in order to turn the population against Hizbollah could fail and create a massive backlash, according to first-hand observers just back from Lebanon.

"This could be the end of the peace talks and not another step to facilitate it as was planned by the Israelis and the Americans," a Palestinian military commander in the Bekaa Valley was quoted as telling reporters in Beirut. "The population will back Hizbollah and support retaliation against the Israelis; this war has only just begun."

Independent observers and press reports Monday also indicated that Lebanese civilians where venting their anger at Israel rather than Hizbollah and guerrillas who had fought Israeli occupation forces.

While some observers say the Hizbollah may stage a come-back and that last week's fighting was just the beginning of a larger war involving Lebanon and Israel, most Palestinian observers see this as unlikely because of Israel's military superiority.

However, all agree that no group has shown itself to be as formidable and consistent an enemy of the Israelis as Hizbollah.

Born during the Israeli onslaught and invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Hizbollah has always been a friend of the Palestinians.

Hizbollah fighters fought with Fateh and the rest of the PLO against its main Shi'ite rival faction — Nabih Berri's Amal militia — in 1983/1984 in what was known as the war of the camps.

At the time Amal fought Palestinian military, and sometimes civilian presence, in Lebanon blaming them for the

Israeli invasion and the civil war was waged inside Lebanon. But it had been the PLO fighters who had enlisted, trained and armed the impoverished and marginalised Shi'ites from South Lebanon in the 1970s. Hoping for a Palestinian-Shi'ite alliance, the PLO had counted on the Shi'ites to swell their ranks to escalate an external war against Israel and better political representation in Lebanon itself.

When the pro-establishment Amal turned against the Palestinians, the Palestinians found allies in Hizbollah whose aim was both to fight the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon and to improve social, political and economic conditions of their lot in Lebanon.

The group's main backers, Iran, have financed Hizbollah operations and extended support to leftist anti-peace talks Palestinian groups as well as Hamas.

Many former Fateh fighters, based mostly in Rashidieh and 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camps, felt disillusioned and abandoned financially by the PLO in recent years have turned to Hizbollah and FFLP-GC.

Syria and the Lebanese government, Tunis-based PLO officials say, are likely to intervene to stop ammunition and money going from Tehran to the Hizbollah bases in the Bekaa Valley if the Israelis and Americans "make it worth their while."

## COLUMN

### Father of Japanese crown princess leaves top post

TOKYO (AP) — Hisashi Owada, whose daughter recently married Crown Prince Naruhito, heir to the chrysanthemum throne, has stepped down as Japan's top career diplomat for an advisory position in the Foreign Ministry, officials said Monday. Mr. Owada's transfer out of the politically charged vice ministry of the Foreign Ministry had been expected since his eldest daughter, Princess Masako, announced her engagement to the crown prince in February. They were wed June 6. Under Japan's postwar constitution, the imperial family is strictly barred from exercising political powers. Fears had been expressed that Mr. Owada's role as imperial father-in-law and one of Japan's top government officials might conflict. Ministry officials, however, played down the importance of Mr. Owada's family ties and said that, with his tenure in office running out anyway, the move — effective Sunday — was a "routine personnel transfer." Mr. Owada is also reportedly still being considered for the ambassadorship to Washington — the most prestigious and politically delicate post of all — after a year or two as ministry advisor. Media reports said another, lower-profile alternative could be a teaching job at Harvard Law School.

Ramos will not attend Marcos funeral

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos Monday ruled out attending next month's scheduled homeland burial of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, saying the "national interest" was more important.

Gen. Ramos, a Marcos cousin who led a military revolt that sent the strongman to exile in 1986, told a news conference that his sister, Senator Leticia Shahani, would represent him and his family at the funeral. "The symbolic gesture that you are asking for has been done by me already by allowing the return of the remains of the late president, which did not take place during the previous administration," Gen. Ramos said. Former President Corason Aquino barred the remains of Marcos, who died in Hawaii in 1989. Gen. Ramos last week agreed to a compromise under which the remains of Mr. Marcos would be flown directly from Honolulu to his province Ilocos Norte for burial in early September.

Priest stole charity money to pay for lavish lifestyle

MELBOURNE (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest pleaded guilty Monday to stealing 1.8 million dollars (\$1.25 million) from charities to pay a lavish lifestyle. Father Vincent Kiss, 61, appeared in the country court to seven charges of theft between 1984 and 1990. Each charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Prosecutor Kevin Silbert told the court that Fr. Kiss, who managed charity trust funds, enjoyed a "lifestyle of the rich and famous."

Mr. Silbert said Fr. Kiss bought a house in the Philippines, equipped another home in Melbourne with a jacuzzi and spent thousands of dollars on landscape gardening. He made regular overseas trips and often hired chauffeur-driven limousines. Fr. Kiss will be sentenced later this month.

Minister disowns Italian tax on dead

ROME (R) — Italy's health minister, stung by criticism that a health tax was being imposed on the dead, said she personally disagreed with the levy but it was impossible to cancel it this year. Radio phone-in programmes have been flooded with calls from outraged citizens complaining that they were forced to pay an annual medical tax of \$5,000 (€52) for every member of the family, even those who died this year. The Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano described the tax as "the latest and most bitter insult that Italian people have had to endure from the tax authorities."

Health Minister Maria Pia Garavaglia said she fully understood people's anger and had told the government she was both personally and politically opposed to the tax. She said in a statement she hoped to abolish the tax, which was approved by parliament as part of a series of major spending cuts needed to secure foreign loans, in 1994. But she added: "I cannot do anything about the heirs having to pay for the deceased because this tax refers to family units in 1992."